FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-100
Tuesday
24 May 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-100 *24 May 1988*

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LD2405130188 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Syrian-Iranian negotiations on the southern suburb issue are marking time and have made "no progress," according to political sources cited by the Voice of Lebanon. The radio noted that the political stalemate coincided with a renewed outbreak of fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, featuring artillery exchanges and violent clashes in the Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah combat lines. Five people were killed and 10 wounded 23 May, the radio said, and fighting continued the following morning.

Voice of Lebanon also disclosed that Syrian forces in the Al-Biqa' Valley have been instructed to close in on Hizballah's Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks near Ba'labakk to ensure that Hizballah forces in the area will be unable to influence events in Beirut.

In another development, a hitherto unknown group calling itself the "Islamic Action Organization" issued a statement threatening attacks on Iranian institutions and their employees unless Iran stops interfering in Lebanese affairs, AFP reported.

On the other hand, an AFP correspondent in Ba'labakk received an "Islamic Jihad" communique which warned that "pressures and clear plans" against the Islamic movement will lead to the liquidation of all foreign hostages. The communique, which was not authenticated by any hostage photograph, urged the countries concerned to rapidly engage in direct negotiations to safeguard the hostages' lives, AFP noted.

PLO and the United States

At a Tunis press conference reported by WAKH, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced that he has received a new warning from the United States against mounting terrorist operations against U.S. targets in retaliation for the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir. According to 'Arafat, the message refers to information that he has personally authorized terrorist operations against U.S. citizens and facilities to avenge the assassination, and it warns that the United States will hold the PLO responsible for "any attacks of this kind."

'Arafat maintained that U.S. leaders have "exceeded all bounds of courteous behavior and propriety," and he said the "most serious thing" in the warning is that it holds the PLO responsible for any attack on U.S. interests throughout the world.

Israel

Rabin on PRC Missiles—In remarks reported by Jerusalem radio, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin denied U.S. press reports that Israeli experts helped the PRC improve the guidance system of CSS-2 missiles sold to Saudi Arabia. Israelis have not been involved in any Chinese activity concerning surface-to-surface missiles or in the transfer of technology connected with such missiles, Rabin stressed.

Differences on Soviet Policy—Differing interpretations of Soviet Mideast policy were expressed by Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office, and Yosi Beilin, director general of the Foreign Ministry, during interviews with Jerusalem radio. While Ben-Aharon told the radio that the Soviet position paper conveyed to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Washington contains no shift in Soviet policy, Beilin spoke of "encouraging signs" in the Soviet position, and he added that "whoever says there is no progress here does not want to see progress."

MA'ARIV likewise supported the view that the Soviet stand contains policy shifts, noting that the Soviet side for the first time endorsed the English version of UN Resolution 242 by calling for Israeli withdrawal "from territories conquered in 1967." The use of the term "from territories" rather than "from the territories" is viewed by Israel and the United States as evidence that Resolution 242 does not call for a return to the exact 1967 borders, the paper noted.

Regarding the Soviet delay in issuing visas for an Israeli delegation to visit Moscow, the USSR has informed Israel that the delegation will be allowed to visit the USSR if it sticks to its original purpose and does not attempt to deal with the issue of Soviet Jews, IDF radio reported. This position was stated by a Soviet Foreign Ministry official during a recent meeting in Zurich with Nimrod Novik, political adviser to Shim'on Peres, the radio noted.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq's continued attacks on "civilian areas and villages in Iran" are "intolerable," according to a WIH statement reported by IRNA. Following the cease-fire in the latest round of the "War of the Cities," during which more than 1,700 Iranians were killed and 8,500 wounded, Iraq resumed its chemical assaults and air raids against Iranian population centers, the statement asserted, and it warned that the Islamic Republic's patience is "not unlimited."

In an interview carried by the Cairo paper AL-MUSAWWAR 20 May, Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, declared that his country will use "all types" of weapons to defend its territory. Iraq "rejects any move by the international community" to ask it not to use certain weapons, he stressed. Regarding

the strength of Iraq's arsenal, Ramadan disclosed that Iraq has "missiles and other weapons that can annihilate huge numbers of people," and he noted that not all the "new cards" in the war have been played.

Ramadan refuted allegations that his country modified Scud-B missiles to increase their range. Asserting that his country's missiles are "100-percent Iraqi," he pointed out that Iran has obtained such Russian-made missiles from Libya and the DPRK and should therefore know the weapon cannot be modified to a range of 650-900 kms. The Iraqi minister also reproved the PRC in its role as Iran's primary arms supplier and criticized the superpowers for not doing more to end the war.

On the battlefield, Iranian troops repelled an Iraqi offensive in the Sumar area, IRNA reported, claiming that the enemy suffered 1,200 casualties. According to a communique cited by the agency, bombing raids against Iraqi positions near Basra inflicted "substantial losses" in men and materiel. An Iranian commander stressed to IRNA that all aircraft participating in 24 May raids on the Basra area returned safely to base, thus refuting an Iraqi announcement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio that an Iranian F-5 was shot down. The WIH also denied that a Bell helicopter was shot down in the north and that Darband-i Khan was shelled by Iranian artillery, IRNA reported.

Iran's "Zolfaqar" maneuvers continued in the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean, Tehran radio reported. IRNA noted that the navy carried out mock "electronic war operations" using equipment manufactured by Iran's military industries.

Iran-UAE

UAE President Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh who delivered a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i, IRNA reported. Following a briefing on Iran's views regarding the "plot" to reduce oil prices, the UAE leader expressed his country's willingness to cooperate in favor of higher oil prices. The Iranian oil minister and his UAE counterpart discussed ways to coordinate their stances at the June OPEC meeting, the agency added.

Egypt-YAR

YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih hailed the visit of his Egyptian counterpart, Husni Mubarak, as a "new turning point" in bilateral relations, Sanaa radio reported. For his part, President Mubarak affirmed that the two countries are committed to developing cooperation within the framework of their "strong and firm" ties. For this purpose a joint committee at the prime ministers level was created to "coordinate and organize" such cooperation, the radio noted.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on 'New U.S. Warning' Against Attacks

Holds Tunis News Conference

JN2305181388 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 23 May

[Text] In an urgent news conference in Tunis today, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat said he received via an Arab state a new U.S. warning holding the PLO responsible for any attack on U.S. interests or citizens in the world.

Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] handed out copies of the warning message which, he said, aims at covering up the state terrorism being practiced by Israel against the Palestinian people and instigating premeditated terrorist operations against the PLO and its leaders.

Asked if he accuses Washington of participating in the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], the Palestinian leader said:

I am waiting for the United States to deny the Israeli officials' assertions that Washington had given its approval of the operation. I am also waiting for a U.S. clarification of the presence of Israeli military aircraft over the 6th Fleet the day Abu Jihad was assassinated and how these aircraft remained in the international airspace between Italy, Malta, and Sicily for 4 hours.

WAKH Notes News Conference

JN2305204188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1955 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Tunis, 23 May (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has disclosed that he has received a U.S. warning that was handed to him through a third party whose identity he did not reveal—an Arab country and two European ones.

At a news conference here today, 'Arafat said the warning says:

It has come to our knowledge that the PLO Executive Committee chairman has personally sanctioned a series of terrorist operations against U.S. citizens and facilities abroad in retaliation, as it seems, for the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] last month. Any eventual attacks against U.S. individuals or facilities to avenge Abu Jihad's assassination deserve denunciation as they are unjustified. We will hold the PLO responsible for any attacks of this kind.

Commenting on this warning, 'Arafat said: U.S. officials have exceeded all bounds of courteous behavior and propriety when speaking about the PLO and its chairman. 'Arafat noted that in the new warning the U.S. Administration seeks to hold the PLO and its leaders responsible for alleged terrorist operations it attributes to the PLO chairman.

Speaking about U.S. involvement in Abu Jihad's assassination, 'Arafat said he only repeated what the Israeli and U.S. media had reported on statements Israeli officials made in which they admitted to the CNN television network correspondent that the assassination had taken place with U.S. approval.

'Arafat added that the U.S. accusation against the PLO that it prepares for terrorist operations is false and is an attempt to cover up for the racist institutionalized terrorism Israel is perpetrating against our children and women.

He added: It is also an exposed attempt at instigation to pave the way for launching preplanned terrorist operations against the PLO and its leaders. 'Arafat stressed that the U.S. Administration supports Israel, which uses U.S. weapons, including poisonous gas. This means that the U.S. Administration is a party to the conflict and not a power which contributes to peacemaking.

'Arafat said: The most serious thing in the new warning is that it holds us responsible for all that could take place against U.S. interests throughout the world. 'Arafat called on U.S. and international public opinion to note the gravity of this method of dealing with an organization that represents the Palestinian people and is recognized by Arab and international organizations.

Asked whether the Palestine question will be discussed at the forthcoming U.S.-Soviet summit, 'Arafat said: The Middle East issue and the Palestine question in particular will be at the top of the hot issues that will be discussed by Gorbachev and Reagan, based on what Reagan told Peres and what Gorbachev told me during my meeting with him in Moscow and in the messages exchanged between us.

He said the Soviet friends will present the subject of holding an international Middle East peace conference with the participation of the permanent member states of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict in the region, including the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, on an equal footing with all other parties.

'Arafat pointed out that the Soviet leader reassured him that the aspired international conference should be an effective conference aimed at attaining the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights and not only noting them.

'Arafat said: A million Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories have thus far signed a memorandum addressed to the Moscow summit, specifically to Gorbachev and President Reagan. We will announce the contents of the memo when it is delivered.

Answering a question on what the PLO aspires to attain from the next extraordinary Arab summit, 'Arafat said: We want much, but what is more important is commitment and political support for the Palestinian people's national inalienable rights, including their right to repatriation and establishment of their independent state whose capital is Arab Jerusalem. We also want to emphasize the need to hold an international peace conference and support our people in the occupied territories and southern Lebanon with all the means of steadfastness.

Regarding Syrian-Palestinian relations, 'Arafat only said the PLO is awaiting Syria's invitation of a Palestinian delegation for the resumption of dialogue with the Syrian Government in Damascus according to the agreed schedule.

KUNA Report

LD2305195588 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1739 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Tunis [dateline as received]—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat revealed here today that 2 Israeli fighter aircraft accompanied the Boeing 707 which participated in the 16 April assassination operation against Khalil al-Wazir—Abu Jihad—deputy general commander of the Palestinian Revolution Forces.

Speaking at a press conference held here today during which he discounted U.S. allegations that the United States knew nothing about the assassination operation, he said the aircraft flew over the U.S. 6th Fleet, which was in the area, and this means that the U.S. Administration had prior knowledge of the aircraft and their mission.

He described U.S. threats against the PLO as being a contribution by the administration to its carrying out of terrorist activities against the Palestinian leadership.

He said the U.S. Administration had sent two threats to the PLO, holding it responsible for any operation which may take place against U.S. installations anywhere in the world. He called on world public opinion and international organizations to support the PLO to help halt the hostile operations against it and against its leadership.

Mr 'Arafat pointed out that the PLO has sent copies of these threats to the Arab League and its member-countries, the United Nations, the nonaligned states, Islamic and African countries, and to friendly states.

He said the PLO would send a memorandum to the Reagan-Gorbachev summit signed by 1 million Palestinians, from inside and outside the occupied territories, demanding that the two leaders find a just solution for the Palestinian question.

Mr 'Arafat expects that the Reagan-Gorbachev summit will discuss the Middle East question. He pointed out that the Soviet leader, Gorbachev had informed him of his intention to discuss the Middle East, particularly the question of convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

Touching on Palestinian-Syrian relations, Mr 'Arafat said the PLO is waiting for an invitation from Damascus requesting a Palestinian delegation to visit there for talks with Syrian officials according to the agreement reached in this connection with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. However, Syria is now occupied with events taking place in Lebanon.

'Arafat Sends 'Important Message' to Gorbachev

JN2305183988 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution forces, received the Soviet ambassador in Tunis last night.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar handed the Soviet ambassador an important message for Soviet leader Gorbachev dealing with the Palestine question and the Middle East problem prior to his meeting with U.S. President Reagan in Moscow.

The Palestinian news agency, WAFA, said this message falls within the framework of exchanging opinions and messages between the Soviet and Palestinian leaderships, based on their strong bilateral relations.

DFLP Denies Hawatimah Asked To Leave Syria

PM2305091588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 May 88 pp 1, 2

[Zaki Musa report: "Hawatimah Rejects Reports of His Deportation From Damascus"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Palestinian sources in Tunis have confirmed reports that the Syrian authorities asked the PLO leadership to abandon the idea of holding a celebration in Damascus to mark the passage of 40 days since the martyrdom of the prominent Palestinian leader Khalil al-Wazir [Abu Jihad] for security reasons that have nothing to do with the recent improvement in Syrian-Palestinian relations.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that celebrations of this kind, which could be attended by over 1 million people (Abu Jihad's funeral was attended by

more than 800,000 people despite Yasir 'Arafat's non-participation), require very strict security measures to maintain the security of the procession and protect participants.

Besides, the Syrian leadership is preoccupied with following up developments in the southern suburb of Beirut and the current clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

The sources pointed out that [PLO Political Department head] Faruq Qaddumi (Abu al-Lutf) is preparing to visit Damascus next week to complete Syrian-Palestinian consultations initiated when [PLO] Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat recently visited Damascus at the head of a leading Palestinian delegation and met with President Hafiz al-Asad and Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

It has been decided that Qaddumi, during his meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', will discuss the issues initially raised at previous meetings, especially adopting a unified stand on solutions proposed for the Middle East problem, coordinating such a stand at the upcoming summit expected to be held in Algiers, and discussing issues concerning bilateral relations.

Meanwhile, a senior DFLP official denied AFP reports from Tunis that Syria has asked Nayif Hawatimah, the Front's secretary general, to leave Damascus.

Contacted by telephone at his home in Tunis, DFLP Deputy Secretary General Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh described the reports as absolutely unfounded.

PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd Rabbuh pointed out that the objective of anyone publishing such unfounded reports is to obstruct the atmosphere of reconciliation and the normalization of relations between the Syrian and Palestinian leaderships.

The Palestinian official said Hawatimah is still carrying out his activities as usual in his office in Damascus and that no request of this kind has been made. "Actually the opposite is the case. We look forward to receiving news strengthening relations in the interest of confrontation with the Zionist enemy and backing our kin who have been fighting against the Zionist enemy for 7 months with unique courage and heroism."

AFP in Tunis yesterday quoted an informed Palestinian source as saying that Syria had "very politely" asked Nayif Hawatimah to leave Syrian territory after thousands of Palestinians staged a demonstration at the Martyrs Cemetery in the Syrian capital on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr during which revolutionary slogans were raised, saluting Abu Jihad and Yasir 'Arafat, according to the source.

Algeria

Arab League Secretary General Arrives in Algiers

LD2205010988 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 May 88

[Excerpts] In preparation for the extraordinary Arab summit which will be held 7 June in Algiers, Mr Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, arrived this evening in Algiers.

In a statement he made at Houari Boumedienne International Airport, the Arab League secretary general said:

I am happy to visit the Algerian capital, which is preparing to host the summit on the uprising in order to support the struggle of our Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Algeria, which is considered the symbol of the heroic struggle, will host this extraordinary summit for a sacred cause: to back up the Palestinian strugglers. [passage omitted]

I am confident the Algerian efforts will be successful because of the respect and credibility Algeria enjoys under the leadership of President Chadli Bendjedid on the Arab and international scenes.

Our countries, Mr Klibi says, followed with great interest and appreciation the recent Algerian efforts to unify ranks to clear the Arab air. The rapprochement which took place between the two brotherly peoples in Tunisia and Libya—and then between Algeria and Morocco—is an important contribution to preparing the path toward more efficient and more comprehensive joint Arab action.

Received by Bendjedid

LD2205215288 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] At the presidential office today, Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN, received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

The meeting, which focused on preparations for convening the emergency Arab summit in Algiers, was attended by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo and foreign minister.

Guinea-Bissau President Meets With Ibrahimi

LD2405011388 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Mr Joao Bernando Vieira, president of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, stopped over at Houari Boumedienne International Airport this afternoon on his way to Addis Ababa where he will take part in the OAU summit.

President Vieira was met at the airport by Mr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo and foreign minister; Mr Mohamed Aberkane, deputy foreign minister in charge of cooperation; and the Guinea-Bissau ambassador to Algeria. After the welcoming ceremony, the Guinea-Bissau president headed for the VIP lounge where he held talks with Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi.

Exchange of Ambassadors With Morocco Approved

LD2305034588 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Today the president of the Republic and the FLN secretary general received at the president's office Abdelhamid Mehri, member of the FLN Central Committee, following his appointment as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria to the Kingdom of Morocco.

A Foreign Ministry statement said the Algerian Government has consented to the appointment of (?Abdellatif Berbiche) as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Morocco to the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

The statement added that the Moroccan Government has consented to the appointment of Abdelhamid Mehri as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria to the Kingdom of Morocco.

Chad

President Arrives in Ethiopia for OAU Summit

AB2305212788 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 23 May 88

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic arrived this afternoon in Addis Ababa where he will attend the OAU summit and the ad hoc committee meeting which opens tomorrow.

It must be recalled that the ad hoc committee has been charged with settling the Chadian-Libyan border dispute. As expected, the bloodthirsty leader from Tripoli will not attend the Addis Ababa meeting.

By this absence the crazy man of Sidra seeks to torpedo the noble peace mission undertaken by the wisemen of Africa. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi's OAU Nonattendance Criticized

AB2305071088 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 22 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] A few days before the meeting of the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chadian-Libyan border dispute, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has publicly announced that he will not go to Addis Ababa.

He boldly lies and slanders to deceive the public. Now everybody's attention is focused on Addis Ababa, where the 25th anniversary of the OAU will be celebrated and African public opinion, more attentive than ever, relies on the wisdom of the honorable heads of state to finally find a just and durable solution based on the decisions of the ad hoc committee.

The colonel of Tripoli has once again offended, as he is accustomed, Africa as a whole. Indeed, a few hours before this historic meeting, Al-Qadhdhafi has publicly stated that he will not go to Addis Ababa.

In other words, he will not attend the ad hoc committee meeting on the Chadian-Libyan border dispute scheduled for 24 May. As a justification, Al-Qadhdhafi boldly lies and slanders to deceive the public.

He is reportedly concerned over the cruel treatment of Libyan prisoners. He even claims that some of them were simply and purely killed. This is pure illusion, since several times over and not long ago reliable observers were able to see for themselves the outstanding living conditions provided for these men, whom Chad has always regarded as the very first victims of Al-Qadhdhafi's adventurist policy.

Besides, before the international press they sincerely thanked the Chadian authorities for the generous hospitality and the fraternal understanding they had been receiving.

Their living conditions in custody, the daily care they have been provided, and finally the messages they have freely sent to their relatives are irrefutable evidence of the exceptional treatment they have been enjoying.

It must also be added that at their urgent request, notably that of the commissioned officers, the authorities allowed them to talk to the media to announce their adherence to the National Front for the National Salvation of Libya.

This move simply shows their growing awareness of the serious dangers Al-Qadhdhafi's unwise policies pose to the future of their country and the need for all people of good will to join forces to stop Al-Qadhdhafi's criminal adventures.

All in all, to speak of torture, murder, and other absurdities is mere propaganda and obscene slander. Should we not, on the contrary, show indignation over the fate reserved for Chadians who are taken prisoner or simply forced to remain in Libya or the occupied Aozou Strip?

Alarming news on their appalling conditions has been reaching us daily. Who is not aware that they are being treated as slaves? Confined like beasts of burden, increasingly subjected to constant humiliations, they are beaten, tortured, or simply murdered in cold blood.

How can a criminal regime which neither respects human rights nor international conventions, in all decency, give advice? The truth is that through our tardy appraisal of Al-Qadhdhafi, which makes each of us indignant, the Libyan regime is once again resorting to its [words indistinct].

Once again, it simply intends to stall the work of the ad hoc committee. By preparing to reenact its empty-chair policy, Libya evidently hopes to have the [word indistinct] on Chad postponed indefinitely.

Its claims being [word indistinct], its ideas having remained the same, and its preparations for a new large-scale aggression proceeding well, Libya can only hide itself behind misleading pretexts from any solution that will destroy its illusions.

The danger for Africa will be to accept its arrogance or to become enmeshed in vain discussions and, in short, fail to accept its responsibilities in the dispute between two African countries which are founding members of the OAU.

In any case, nobody should underestimate the serious consequences that a resigned attitude may have on the future of the entire region. Confident in its right, armed with its acknowledged readiness, and respectful of the principles governing the OAU, Chad will be present at the highest level.

It will thus show to the world its sense of duty vis-a-vis African peoples and its sincere desire for peace and fraternal concord.

Egypt

Reportage on 'Abd al-Majid Visit to USSR

Makes Banquet Speech

NC2005203988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] Moscow, 20 May (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized the need for the Soviet Union to assume its responsibilities toward finding a settlement for the Middle East problem. He noted that the idea of an international conference for peace in the Middle East is internationally accepted, pointing out that the Soviet Union, as a superpower, has a vital role to play in formulating all settlements of international and regional problems and should, therefore, shoulder its responsibility toward this question.

In a speech this evening at a banquet given in his honor by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, 'Abd al-Majid noted Egypt's desire to discuss proposals and listen to views, within the framework of talks with the Soviet Union, in order to pave the way for an international peace conference and overcome the difficulties that are preventing it from being held. He stressed that

real peace in the Middle East can only be achieved if a just and permanent solution to the Palestinian issue is found. He emphasized Egypt's constant warning to those who imagine that the passage of time will make the status quo acceptable. They forget, he said, that the people's right to their homeland will not be negated by the ("passage of time). The people who were forced out of their land and are currently exposed to the most severe repression and torture by the Israeli forces will inevitably regain their right to self-determination and their land, he declared.

Regarding the Gulf war, 'Abd al-Majid said that Egyptian diplomacy is stepping up its efforts toward ending this war and implementing Security Council Resolution 598. He stated that Egypt welcomed the Soviet decision to withdraw from Afghanistan. We hope that the Afghan people will be given the chance to resolve their problems by themselves, he declared.

'Abd al-Majid praised the Soviet Union's positive stand on the settlement of debts. He said that the goal of Egyptian diplomacy is to work persistently to achieve world peace and security based on justice and the respect for national sovereignty and legitimate rights of all peoples. He praised joint efforts to resolve the debt problem that burdens friendly African countries. In this regard, he pointed out that both Egypt and the Soviet Union pursue similar policies in denouncing racial discrimination in South Africa. He underlined Egypt's confidence in the role of the United Nations in establishing peace and justice and promoting development.

Regarding bilateral relations, 'Abd al-Majid asserted there have been many shining examples of Egyptian-Soviet cooperation over the years and that the Egyptian people appreciate the Soviet people's political support and economic aid.

He said: Today our friendship enters a new stage, founded on solid bases of political orientation and practical action. We aspire to continuing consultations in order to consolidate this cooperation. He noted that Egypt is drawing up a plan for economic and social reform and welcomes the Soviet Union's participation in implementing the projects outlined in the current development plan. The agreement on economic, trade, technical, and scientific cooperation, he said, will boost bilateral realtions and revitalize and expand the industrial projects that were established earlier with Soviet help. In this connection, he referred to the long-term trade agreement between the two countries that was signed last December and provides for an increase in trade over the next 3 years.

Concluding his speech, 'Abd al-Majid praised the cultural cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union. He conveyed greetings from the Egyptian leaders and people to the Soviet leaders and people, stressing that their friendshp will serve the interests of both peoples and contribute to security and prosperity for all countries.

Joint Communique Issued

NC2105211188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Moscow, 21 May (MENA) — Egypt and the Soviet Union have stressed the need to take practical and urgent steps to achieve a just and durable settlement of the Middle East issue, based on Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and on the guarantee of the Palestinian people's national and legitimate rights, including their inalienable right to self-determination.

The two sides have affirmed that the convocation of an international peace conference under UN auspices and with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO in its capacity as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the permanent member countries of the UN Security Council, is the effective means of finding acceptable solutions to all aspects of the problem. Within this context, the two countries lauded the Palestinian people's uprising against the Israeli occupation authorities, which is taking place in the occupied Arab territories. They condemned the inhuman practices of the occupation authorities against defenseless Palestinian civilians, and strongly denounced the arbitrary deportations from the occupied territories, as well as the acts of political assassination and state-sponsored terrorism.

This was contained in the joint communique which was issued today at athe conclusion of the Egyptian-Soviet talks conducted between Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Soviet officials during the former's state visit to the Soviet Union.

In the communique, Egypt and the USSR expressed satisfaction with the positive and marked progress in Egyptian-Soviet relations and affirmed their intention to strengthen bilateral understanding and cooperation in various spheres.

The two sides referred to the importance of political consultations, which allow for an exchange of views between the two countries. In this connection, they agreed to continue consultations between the foreign ministries of both countries on issues of mutual interest.

In their joint communique, the two sides asserted that the signing of an agreement for economic, trade, technical, and scientific cooperation, and the establishment of a joint government committee, comes at an important phase in the economic development of the two countries. Both sides also stressed that the agreement offers wide prospects for bilateral cooperation, which will include new forms, particularly joint efforts and joint projects for industrial production in both countries. They also stressed the importance of developing parliamentary contacts and expanding cultural and scientific exchanges.

The Egyptian and Soviet sides expressed their profound concern over the continuing and complex regional conflicts, stressing the need for urgent and peaceful solutions to these conflicts. They noted in this respect the suitability of the present climate to begin the peace process in the Middle East and to convene an international conference. The two sides exchanged views on the possibility of coordinating the efforts currently being exerted for holding such a conference and making it a success. The two sides also voiced their extreme concern over the continuation and escalation of the Iraq-Iran war, as its escalation has grave repercussions not only for Gulf security, but for world peace and security as well. The two countries called for the expeditious implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for halting the war.

As regards the situation in Lebanon, the communique affirmed both Egypt's and the Soviet Union's support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Lebanon. The two countries also affirmed their call for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

The communique also asserted that Egypt welcomes the Geneva accords on Afghanistan. The two countries called for these accords to be fully respected, and expressed their hope that the settlement of the Afghanistan problem will be an example in settling other regional conflicts.

The Egyptian and Soviet sides called for a just settlement of the problem of accumulating debts of the African nations on the basis of the pertinent UN and OAU resolutions. They also praised the Nonaligned Movement's efforts for disarmament and for the establishment of just bases for a new international economic system, which would achieve the goals of economic and social development of all countries in the interest of world peace and security. Within this context, the two countries noted the importance of establishing international economic relations on just and democratic bases, in accordance with the appropriate UN resolutions, and stressed the need to support the United Nations in all aspects of its activities.

With regard to nuclear arms, the two sides emphasized the need to eliminate the nuclear danger, to preserve humanity, and to construct a world free from nuclear arms and violence, through active efforts by all countries irrespective of their political, economic, and social systems, and geographic status.

The two countries voiced their support for establishing nuclear-free areas in various parts of the world, particularly in the Middle East. They expressed their support for converting the Mediterranean into an area of peace, security, and cooperation free from confrontations.

Finally, the two countries urged a speedy halt to nuclear tests and the conclusion of an international treaty fully banning them. They also called for limiting the use of outer space to peaceful objectives.

Returns From Moscow

NC2205055988 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Cairo from Moscow early this morning. During his 3-day visit to Moscow, he handed a message from President Husni Mubarak to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and held talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that he will give President Husni Mubarak a complete briefing on the visit. He also expressed his satisfaction with the talks he held with Soviet leaders, which, he said, covered bilateral relations and regional and international issues. 'Abd al-Majid said that the two countries signed an agreement on economic and commercial cooperation, noting that this agreement will benefit both nations and help further their relations. Egypt, 'Abd al-Majid said, is seeking to promote peace, stability, and development in the Middle East.

Trial Begins of Defendants Linked to Libya

NC2105133388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1218 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—This morning, the Higher Emergency State Security Court began the trial of 16 [as received] defendants in the case of the armed Nasirist organization accused of collaboration with Libyan intelligence. Eight of the defendants remain at large.

The defense lawyers presented themselves to the court, which then read them the bill of indictment issued by the prosecution. The court decided to adjourn the case until 21 June and to notify the prosecution witnesses to be present. The court also ordered that first defendant Eng Jamal Munib be kept in custody pending the outcome of the case.

In its indictment, the prosecution charged the defendants with being party to a criminal agreement designed to commit the following offenses: approaching a foreign country, "the Libyan Jamahiriyah"; contacting an individual working for the Jamahiriyah with the aim of carrying out acts hostile to Egypt in order to harm the country's political and economic standing and its national interests; receiving sums of money and benefits for the said acts; and possessing and manufacturing explosives for the purpose of using them in a manner bound to subject people's lives and possessions to danger. The indictment notes that numerous crimes were committed under this agreement.

The indictment also charges that the defendants approached and contacted an individual working for the Libyan Jamahiriyah and agreed to carry out acts of sabotage in the country, including the bombing of some foreign and jointly owned possessions. The indictment added that for this purpose some of the defendants traveled in groups to Libya, where they received military training in carrying out acts of sabotage.

The prosecution said that the defendants acquired and possessed firearms and ammunition without having licenses. They also had explosives for the purpose of carrying out acts against public security and order. The prosecution added that the defendants used the explosives in a way bound to put other people's possessions at risk by planting and detonating an explosive charge in the vault of the international Egypt-America Bank.

The prosecution said that a number of the defendants received from Libyan intelligence agents sums of money and tickets to travel abroad, in addition to paid expenses, in return for carrying out acts of sabotage inside the country for the purpose of disrupting security and peace.

The prosecution said that the defendants, in contravention of the law, founded, organized, and administered an illegitimate paramilitary party organization. They formed a secret party group for the purpose of advocating opposition to the basic principles on which the ruling regime is founded and in order to incite resistance against the public authorities.

The defense requested that the case be adjourned until it could examine the case file, which consists of 1,060 pages. The defense also demanded that defendant Jamal Munib be released in view of the fact that he has been detained in connection with this case for more than a year.

Fundamentalists, Residents Clash; 9 Injured

NC2405080088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] An Egyptian police source has stated that nine persons have been wounded in violent clashes in the popular Al-Sharabiyah neighborhood, south of Cairo, between fundamentalists and area residents. The source added that the fundamentalists tried to stop a wedding ceremony, which led to a violent quarrel during which five residents and four fundamentalists were injured. One of the fundamentalists is in critical condition, the source said.

Committee Postpones March on Israeli Borders

NC2205120488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1108 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—The Egyptian National Committee in Support of the Palestinian Uprising has decided to postpone a peaceful Arab popular march on the borders of occupied Palestine. The date will be announced later.

The committee issued a statement today saying that the decision to postpone the march was made in order to complete practical arrangements for it and to ensure sufficient mobilization on the national level. The committee pledged continued material and political backing of the uprising and stressed the need to create a pan-Arab framework for this backing.

Daily Criticizes Israel, U.S. Peace Efforts

NC2305082588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM criticizes the U.S. Government's attempts to breathe life into its peace overture as the only possible solution and available avenue for resolving the region's problems, despite Israel's intransigent stand on this initiative and the fact that the initiative itself ignores the essence of the problem, the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

In an editorial today, AL-AHRAM discusses U.S. statements saying that Washington's initiative for the Middle East is still alive and about the upcoming fourth tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

AL-AHRAM states that despite the current U.S. efforts, there are still no signs of progress. What is known so far is that U.S. efforts are still at a stage of questions and requests for clarification. This indicates that the question is still in the initial stages and that all efforts are still focused on seeking clarifications on vague issues, and specification instead of generalization, taking no notice of the basic goal: the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. The paper describes these efforts as an attempt to draw a circle without determining a center.

AL-AHRAM notes that Israel's stand still rejects the U.S. initiative. The Likud bloc rejects it outright and the Labor Party accepts it, provided that the land-for-peace principle will not lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state. The paper asserts that Israel wants bilateral negotiations instead of an international conference, without guarantees or interference from any party and without a prior commitment to return the occupied land. AL-AHRAM further says that Israel wants to select what it wants from the negotiators, plan its borders as it wishes, and make decisions on the rights of other parties, primarily the Palestinians. It notes that the utmost Israel will permit is to sit down with other negotiating teams, considering this a sufficient concession as the current circumstances do not force it to negotiate.

Libya

Lebanon's Junblatt Departs Tripoli After Visit

LD2305195188 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1737 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, 23 May, JANA — The head of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, Walid Junblatt, left Tripoli this evening after visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

Brother Walid Junblatt made a statement to JANA in which he emphasized the continuation of all sincere pan-Arab efforts to agitate the Arab masses into assisting the revolution of stones, which is led by the generation of anger in occupied Palestine against the Zionist enemy.

He praised the leading role of the Great Jamahiriyah in the efforts to achieve Arab unity and in aiding, materially and politically, the revolution of the Arab people in occupied Palestine against Zionist occupation.

Guinea-Bissau's President Vieira Ends Visit
LD2105140588 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 May 88

[Excerpts] Joao Bernando Vieira, president of the Guinea-Bissau State Council, and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli at noon today after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

President Vieira made a statement to JANA in which he expressed gratitude and appreciation to the people of the Great Jamahiriyah and the leader of its revolution for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded him and his delegation in the Great Jamahiriyah.

He said the visit was an opportunity for exchanges and to increase the bonds of friendship and fraternity between the Guinean and Libyan peoples. The visit allowed us to meet the leader and my impression was very good, especially with regard to our bilateral relations. We signed a friendship and cooperation accord between the two countries which covers cooperation in the fields of maritime fisheries, mining, agriculture, and other matters. We shall work to increase the ties of friendship and cooperation between Guinea-Bissau and Libya. We are very grateful for this visit and its results and I hope that the agreements which we have signed will be implemented. [passage omitted]

Joint Communique Issued
LD2205021788 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] A joint communique was issued today in Tripoli at the end of the visit by Joao Bernando Vieira, president of the State Council of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. Here is the text:

Within the framework of the brotherly and friendly relations between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, and stressing the progressive revolutionary solidarity between the peoples in the Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, His Excellency Major General Joao Bernando Vieira, president of the State Council in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, paid a friendly working visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah accompanied by a high-ranking delegation, from 4 to 6 Shawal 1397 from the Prophet's death, corresponding to 19 to 21 May 1988.

On arrival, the president was welcomed by his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution and the Libyan Arab people, in a warm brotherly way which expressed the depth of the relations of friendship.

The president of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau viewed the achievements of the 1 September Revolution and expressed his admiration of the developments achieved by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in all fields.

Important talks were held between the brother leader of the great 1 September Revolution and President Vieira. The two delegations also studied in depth bilateral relations, the situation on the African Continent, and international issues of common concern.

On the bilateral level, the two sides discussed ways of bolstering the relations of friendship and cooperation in various fields in implementation of the common hopes of the Libyan Arab and Guinea-Bissau peoples. The two sides stressed in this respect their commitment to fight imperialism, colonialism, and racism, and their firm determination to continue the struggle against all forms of domination in order to attain freedom and independence for oppressed peoples. The two sides considered the necessity of activating bilateral cooperation through the full implementation of the cooperation agreements concluded between the two countries and the joint committee.

During this visit, the first session of the Libyan Arab-Guinean joint committee was convened. The minutes signed on this occasion included references to the progress and development of bilateral cooperation in the cultural and economic fields. Documents endorsing the agreement concerning the creation of a joint (?financial) company were also exchanged.

The Libyan Arab delegation in the presence of Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Guinea-Bissau delegation led by Joao Bernando Vieira held fruitful talks and working sessions. The Libyan Arab and the Guinean sides in the presence of brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Guinea-Bissau delegation led by Joao Bernando Vieira held fruitful talks and working sessions. [sentence repeated as heard]

On the African level: While the two sides pointed to the great significance embodied in the 25th anniversary of the OAU's creation, as it constitutes a quarter of a century of the heroic struggle of the African peoples for independence and the confirmation of their identity, they stressed the necessity of the struggle of the African peoples for unity and liberation of the continent, and the achievement of social and economic development. The two sides expressed their concern about the development of the social and economic situation in Africa. They expressed their condemnation of the attempts to harm

the security and stability of the African peoples, and the dangerous consequences this has for peace, economic development, and the people's unity on the whole.

On the basis of their common understanding of the situation in Chad, the two sides stressed that the Chadian problem is an African problem, and that any effort to settle it must be an African effort within the OAU framework and with an African will free from all sorts of foreign pressures and interventions.

In this respect, the two sides supported the OAU's efforts to peacefully settle the problem and secure an atmosphere for achieving national reconciliation.

When they studied the current situation in southern Africa, the two sides condemned the racist regime in South Africa and the illegitimate occupation of Namibia and part of Angola by racist South Africa. They also condemned its aggressive policy to destabilize the southern part of the continent and the Frontline States, such as the People's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique. In this regard, the two sides renewed their support for the South African people's struggle to eliminate the regime of racist discrimination and to establish a democratic and multiracial society.

On the other hand, the two sides stressed the necessity for a speedy implementation of Security Council Resolutions 385 and 435, without the conditions related to the independence of Namibia. The two sides affirmed their absolute solidarity with the heroic struggle of the people of Namibia under the leadership of the liberation organization SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization], their sole legitimate representative.

The two sides expressed their concern regarding the economic situation in Africa in general and stressed the necessity for strengthening solidarity and cooperation between the African countries with a view to realizing the objectives defined in the Lagos working plan.

Regarding the African debt problem, the two sides expressed their concern with the aggravated problem of the debt burden on the economies of these countries. They emphasized that the optimum solution lies in establishing an international economic order that will enable an acceptable solution to this serious problem to be found.

The Palestinian issue: When reviewing the Palestinian issue, the two sides expressed their profound concern over the existing situation in the occupied Arab territories; affirmed their support for the Palestinian people's struggle under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative; and particularly affirmed their right to self-determination and to set up their own independent state. The two sides also affirmed their firm support for the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people in occupied Palestine and condemned the oppressive acts committed by the Zionist entity against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories. In this regard, they call on all people- and justice-loving peoples, and particularly the progressive forces in Africa and the world, to support the uprising of the Palestinian people and condemn the oppressive practices by the Zionist regime in this region.

The Iraq-Iran war: The two sides expressed their regret over the continuation of the war between the brothers in Iraq and Iran, and appealed to both countries to stop this war and to solve the problem by peaceful means.

These talks were conducted in an atmosphere of frankness and mutual understanding.

Maj Gen Joao Bernando Vieira expressed his deep satisfaction and also his thanks to Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great 1 September Revolution, and to the Libyan Arab people for the warm fraternal welcome and the good African hospitality which he and his accompanying delegation were accorded during their stay in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

At the conclusion of the visit, President Joao Bernando Vieira, invited Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to pay a friendly working state visit to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, accepted this invitation with gratitude.

Written in Tripoli on 6 Shawal 1397 from the Prophet's death, corresponding to 21 May 1988.

Sudan

'Acute' Bread Shortage in Khartoum Reported

NC2205154488 Cairo MENA in English 1326 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, May 22 (MENA)—There is an acute bread shortage in Khartoum. There was a shortage of 40 per cent in available supplies of flour in the Sudanese capital.

AL-USBU' newspaper carried a statement by a Sudanese official in which he said that the shortage would be overcome when a consignment of 23,000 tons of imported flour arrived during the next few days.

There were demonstrations in 'Atbara yesterday in protest against the shortage in supply commodities, particularly bread. The trade unions called for a five-day strike. As of today, the strike would continue if the authorities did not deal with the crisis.

The trade unions asked that strategic stocks be provided. They asked for fixed prices for meat and vegetables. The regional government provided 350 sacks of flour as an immediate relief. The central government in Khartoum directed that 37 train wagons carrying wheat be sent from Port Sudan to 'Atbara.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Explains 'Unified' ID Card

LD2305182888 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 May 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri by radio correspondent Fethia Hemdane; date, place not specified — recorded]

[Text] [Hemdane] Your Excellency Mr Minister, welcome.

[Mestiri] Thank you.

[Hemdane] What is your assessment of the results of yesterday's meeting between President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi?

[Mestiri] My assessment is very positive because the decisions taken are for the benefit of the Tunisian and Libyan peoples. The decisions are, in fact, included in and a continuation of a series of previous decisions, but these are probably more important because of the doors they will open in relations between the two peoples and the two countries. We know that they guarantee the people freedom of travel between the two countries, freedom to transport commercial articles and goods between the two countries, and freedom of residence, property, and work in the two countries.

This is a very important matter which, in our opinion, will bring changes to the nature of relations between the two fraternal countries. As explained in the joint press statement, this meeting comes within the framework of the Arab Maghreb. We call for a Maghreb without borders. But, without borders does not mean within the framework of a single state, but a closer form of relations than the openness we can see now in Europe where the people have freedom to travel, to transport goods, to exchange knowledge, and freedom of property, and so on.

[Hemdane] Your Excellency, could you explain to us the freedom to travel between the two countries by means of a unified individual identity card? What are the procedures involved and what is this card?

[Mestiri] Naturally, all these matters and decisions still need committees to specify the conditions under which they will be established, because only the principle has been decided by the two presidents. As for the implementation, there has to be a special committee. As for the identity card, naturally it will have the same form, but every country will have its own identity card for its own citizens.

The Tunisian identity card will remain a Tunisian identity card bearing the inscription Tunisian Republic, Interior Ministry, and so on. But, it will look the same and contain the same data as the Libyan card. The same appearance, the same size, and, especially, the same data. It will be done in coordination between us and the Libyan brothers, and I hope the same will be extended to the brothers in Morocco, Algeria, and Mauritania. Thus, it will be unified in appearance and data, but, naturally, individual for every country.

[Hemdane] What does the identity card have that a passport does not? In what way is it different from a passport?

[Mestiri] A passport, as you know, requires special documents. Every Tunisian, as you know, has an absolute right to a passport, but the identity card is a natural one. [sentence as heard] You know that we are currently changing identity cards because the old ones are out of date, as they are valid for 10 years. We will be using the identity card instead of the passport, which is a special document which allows traveling. But the normal identity card, which is used for any service at the municipality or any operation you carry out at the administration, this same card will be enough for entering Libya.

[Hemdane] So this does not mean that we keep our old identity card and add another card for traveling?

[Mestiri] No. This measure will, I hope, be explained by his excellency the interior minister today through the mass media and probably through television. Naturally, this is not a unilateral step. It will be implemented together with the Libyan brothers. We will explain, I believe, that this identity card will be an ordinary identity card and not one especially for travel to Libya.

Kuwait

Defense Minister Says No Foreign Forces Present

LD2405111488 Kuwait KUNA in English 0940 GMT 24 May 88

[By Walid al-Seraya']

[Text] Kuwait, May 24 (KUNA) — Kuwait Defence Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah Tuesday denied the presence of any foreign forces on Kuwaiti territories.

Speaking to reporters of local newspapers and KUNA, Shaykh Nawwaf noted that the presence of foreign fleets in the international Arab Gulf waters is due to the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war and the Iranian rejection of international peace initiatives, which call for an end to the Gulf war.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti minister praised the positive and important role of the Peninsula Shield Force, affirming it is ready to carry out missions assigned to it.

The Peninsula Shield Force groups military units from the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council states of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

On the Kuwaiti request to purchase the U.S.-made F-18 aircraft, the Kuwaiti defence minister said the issue is not a secret anymore and was announced earlier.

He added that an official request to purchase 40 airplanes of this kind was actually sent to Washington, noting that negotiations are currently going on regarding this matter.

Shaykh Nawwaf did not rule out that the deal will be concluded during the next July visit of H.S. the crown prince and premier of Kuwait Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah to Washington.

He also noted that Kuwait is still seeking to purchase the U.S.-made Stinger missile, though an earlier request was rejected. He stressed that Kuwait will continue its efforts to get such weapons from various sources and according to its needs.

Regarding the French-made Mirage jetfighters, the Kuwaiti official said that negotiations are currently being held on this request. He also pointed out that there are contacts and consultations with some Arab states to obtain sophisticated domestic weapons.

He added that Egyptian and Kuwaiti military delegations exchanged visits to their respective countries, indicating in that respect to the Egyptian military exhibit that was held recently in Kuwait.

On the forthcoming meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council's defence ministers, Shaykh Nawwaf said that it will be held next October, during which important issues will be discussed by the conferees.

Shaykh Nawwaf's participation in this meeting will be the first since he assumed the post of defence minister last February.

United Arab Emirates

IRNA Notes Iranian Oil Minister's Visit

LD2405073488 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 24, IRNA—Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here for talks with the United Arab Emirates officials on oil prices and market situation met with president and ruler of Abu Dhabi Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan Monday. The meeting was also attended by U.A.E. Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah.

Aqazadeh briefed Shaykh Zayid on the latest developments in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and moves of certain members to reduce oil prices.

"We have told OPEC and independent producers that the plot will jeopardize the interests of regional countries and that it must be thwarted by overall cooperation," Aqazadeh said.

He pointed out that oil prices will reach a realistic level as a result of identical outlooks and concerted policies of OPEC members and the Persian Gulf states in particular.

Shaykh Zayid expressed his concern over superpower plots in the Persian Gulf and said the big powers should not interfere in the region. He said that his coutnry is willing to cooperate for boosting oil prices, but noted that the goal may be attained solely by the united effort of oil producers both in and outside of OPEC.

Aqazadeh also met with his U.A.E. counterpa . Al-'Utaybah Monday afternoon and discussed ways of cooperation between the two countries in the next OPEC meet scheduled in Vienna in June.

The Iranian oil minister arrived here Monday morning from Oman on the second leg of his three-nation tour. He and his accompanying delegation are to visit Jakarta in the third leg of their tour.

Yemen Arab Republic

Further Reportage on Visit by Egypt's Mubarak

Visit Termed 'Important'

JN2305185288 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 22 May 88 pp 1, 6

[By Ibrahim Nafi']

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has described President Mubarak's visit as a historic and important one that will open new vistas for the development of political and economic relations between the Egyptian and Yemeni people. He said that all Arab issues and concerns will be discussed by the two presidents.

On Egyptian-YAR relations, he said his country was very active at the Amman summit on the issue of the resumption of Arab-Egyptian relations. He said: As we used to say in our youth and as we are now saying in our old age, Egypt is the pulse of the Arab nation.

On cooperation between Egypt and the YAR, Dr al-Iryani said: The scope of economic cooperation and trade exchange between the two countries has not yet reached the desired dimensions, particularly now that Egypt has high-quality products. He said that the two presidents will discuss ways to expand economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. He added that the Jordanian-Egyptian example can be emulated between the YAR and Egypt as the YAR's imports this year have reached $1.4 billion.

On the YAR's role in the field of Arab reconciliation, the YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has played a prominent role in clearing the Arab atmosphere and he is pursuing this role. He explained that Arab reconciliations have not been definitively completed following the Amman summit. He said: We are looking forward to the Algiers summit to complete these reconciliations

On the security strategy for the Red Sea, Dr al-Iryani said the Red Sea must be kept free of the superpowers' struggle. He said that littoral states are completely in agreement on this and that this is the soundest course for safeguarding the safety of the Red Sea, which is becoming more and more important, particularly since the oil countries have started using it as a commercial waterway to the Suez Canal or the Bab el Mandeh. It is not permissible for a non-Arab littoral state like Ethiopia to ignore this. There should be strategic harmony with it and no rift must take place between an Arab country and Ethiopia.

He emphasized that in light of this strategy, Egypt and the YAR seek to remove the international struggle from the Red Sea.

On the YAR's policy on Arab accord and the clearing of Arab atmospheres, particularly between Egypt and Libya, Dr al-Iryani said that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has exerted personal efforts in this respect and that the YAR has always proceeded in this direction and will continue to do so. [passage omitted]

On the YAR's relations with the GCC countries, Dr al-Iryani said: Cooperation exists between the two sides and GCC countries came to the assistance of the YAR during the earthquake incidents.

On the Israeli threats with respect to the Saudi missiles, Dr al-Iryani said that the YAR's stand on this issue is identical to Egypt's and that every country has the right to acquire any weapons to defend its territory. He said: Israel and South Africa are the only two countries in the world that oppose this.

On the popular uprising, he said that so far there has been no indication that the uprising has made the other party more amenable to a speedy solution. He added that every Arab is dutybound to support this uprising until Israel becomes tractable. [passage omitted]

Presidents End Talks

JN2405064388 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] The official fraternal session of talks between our country and the Arab Republic of Egypt headed by Brothers President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt were concluded at the presidential palace at 2000 today.

During the session, discussion of the topics and issues discussed during yesterday's session was completed. The two sides decided to form a joint ministry [wazarah mushtarakah] under the two fraternal countries' prime ministers to organize and coordinate all aspects of cooperation and integration between the two fraternal countries and to promote all areas of existing relations so they include broader areas.

[Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic at 0430 GMT on 24 May in a rebroadcast of this item reports the following: "The two sides decided to form a ministerial committee [lajnah wazariyah] under the two fraternal countries' prime ministers to organize and coordinate all aspects of cooperation and integration between the two fraternal countries and to promote all areas of existing relations so they include broader areas."]

The two sides praised the development in Yemeni-Egyptian relations in the past to serve the goals and interests of the two peoples.

On the Arab level, the two sides emphasized the importance of redoubling efforts to support the sweeping popular Palestinian revolution in the occupied territory to enable it to achieve the desired victory for all the just national causes of our Palestinian Arab people under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

The two sides also affirmed their principled stand in condemning the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war which is wasting the energies and lives of the two neighboring Iraqi and Iranian peoples. The two sides praised Iraq's responsiveness to all calls for peace, emphasizing that war cannot be a means to resolve disputes between two neighboring fraternal countries. The two sides emphasized the importance of expediting the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 as a start to pursuing the correct peaceful path toward resolving all problems.

Many issues of mutual interest on Arab, Muslim, and international levels were also discussed during the session. The two sides agreed on these issues.

During the meeting the brother president and secretary general delivered a speech in which he expressed his pleasure and the pleasure of the brothers present at meeting with President Husni Mubarak and the brothers accompanying him. President Salih said: This meeting is historic. It is a new turning point in the development of Yemeni-Egyptian relations which will witness better and improved relations. He added: All the issues discussed were viewed from the same perspective. Bilateral relations will continue to grow for they are self-developing.

The brother president praised what has been achieved in that regard; namely, the establishment of a joint committee [lajnah mushtarakah] headed by the two prime ministers of the two fraternal countries to coordinate and organize joint cooperation. He emphasized that the committee will seek to develop all aspects of cooperation and coordination.

The brother president reaffirmed his welcome and expressed our people's pleasure at the fraternal meeting and at the positive results yielded by the visit.

President Husni Mubarak spoke and thanked the brother president and secretary general for the warm welcome accorded to him and to the delegation accompanying him. President Mubarak said: From the first meeting it was clear to me that that our hearts have converged and are together. That indicates that the ties that bind us are strong and firm and that the development of bilateral relations is a moral and ethical commitment for both sides.

President Mubarak added: Our concepts are one and we do not have any differences in this regard. He expressed happiness with the progress in our country which delights every Arab and Muslim because the YAR is an Arab and Islamic country. He said: We are happy with all achievements in the YAR just as we are happy with achievements in Egypt.

Concluding, President Mubarak said: Once again I greet President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the frank and sincere patriotic leader. I also stress our sincere joint efforts in the interest of our countries and the Arabs and Muslims.

The talks were attended on the YAR side by Brothers 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, vice president, Constituent People's Assembly speaker, and member of the Standing Committee; 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member; Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; Mujahid Abu Shawarib, deputy prime minister, Standing Committee member, and head of the escort mission; Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, culture and information minister and Standing Committee member; 'Ali Muhammad al-Anisi, director of the president's office and Standing Committee member; Ahmad Muhammad al-Radi, secretary general of the president's office; Muhammad Salih al-Khalidi, the president's secretary and Constituent People's Assembly member; and Mutahhar Muhammad Mutahhar, the YAR charge d'affairs in Cairo.

Attending the talks on the Egyptian side were Dr Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the president's office for political affairs and first Foreign Ministry under secretary; Dr Zakariyah 'Azmi, secretary general of the president's office; Dr Jamal al-Din 'Abd al-'Aziz, secretary of the president's office; Dr 'Umar 'Ali 'Amir, the Egyptian ambassador in Sanaa; Dr Mustafa al-Faqih, the president's secretary for information and follow up affairs; and Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, head of the General Information Authority.

Following the final session of talks, brother leaders Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, answered the questions of the Egyptian and YAR journalists who followed up the session of talks. The following are the two presidents' answers to the questions:

President Salih was asked his assessment of the results of the Egyptian-YAR talks and joint Arab action. He said: I am very happy with this meeting with His Excellency Brother Muhammad Husni Mubarak and members of the accompanying delegation who are visiting their second homeland, the YAR. Regarding joint Arab action, our viewpoint in the YAR has been clear since the Amman summit. We seek to achieve Arab solidarity and to end estrangement and differences which are created by the Zionist entity and those who support it against the Arab nation. During my meeting with His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, we talked about

several issues of interest to our fraternal countries and our Arab homeland, particularly the Palestine question and the Iraq-Iran war, in addition to several international issues of common interest. Our views on all or most of the issues were identical.

Regarding YAR-Egyptian relations, the brother president and secretary general said: Egyptian-YAR relations are developing continuously. They will further develop in the future as a result of His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's visit, who is no stranger to his homeland, the Yemen. He was one of the leaders who defended the September revolution. We are proud of our friendship and fraternal relations with His Excellency President Mubarak and all our brothers in Egypt. My greetings to our brothers and people in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak answered journalists' questions. He said: I visited Yemen when I was vice president in 1976. I saw Yemen and saw Sanaa. However, I saw it today and witnessed the huge development and swift progress which took place in the 11 years since President Salih assumed power. Progress has been made in services, housing, roads, and various spheres.

He added: Actually, I did not think such a large stride would be taken in such a short period. If I had the time, I would have visited the other Yemeni cities which I heard have also achieved great development. He said: My greetings to the fraternal Yemeni people and to my brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the noble, nationalist man with principles loyal to his country, who achieved all this progress.

Answering a question about Egypt's relations with the Arab countries, President Mubarak said they are good. As for the timing of this visit and its coincidence with his visit to Addis Ababa, President Mubarak said that his contacts with the brother president had begun before the Amman summit. He indicated that the purpose is to visit a friendly brother and a Muslim Arab state with which we have entrenched relations which grow continuously. He said that a joint committee between the two countries has been formed on the level of prime ministers. He said that the establishment of a joint committee at this level reflects the way we view Yemeni-Egyptian relations.

Answering a question on the Red Sea issue, His Excellency President Husni Mubarak said: We hope the Red Sea will be free of military forces and continue as a peaceful sea.

Meanwhile, Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, this evening visited his brother His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, at his place of residence at the presidential palace. The two leaders held a closed meeting at which they held discussions and exchanged viewpoints on all issues of interest to the two sisterly countries and to our Arab and Islamic nation.

Oil Minister, Delegation Leave for U.S. 22 May

JN2205100588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim left for the United States today heading a delegation on a several-day visit.

In a statement to INA, the minister said he will hold talks and meetings with Energy Depatment officials and also with officials in charge of energy organizations and corporations on ways to enhance bilateral cooperation.

The minister indicated that during the visit he will deliver lectures on Iraq's international oil policy and its efforts to develop the oil industry.

AL-MUSAWWAR Interviews Ramadan on War

JN2305151588 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 20 May pp 20, 21

[Interview with Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, by Sana' al-Sa'id in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sa'id] Now that Iraq has achieved victory during its decisive offensive in Al-Faw, which Iran had used as a bridgehead to attack Basra and threaten other Arab countries, I wonder: Will the restoration of Al-Faw weaken Iran's desire for war and limit its attacks?

[Ramadan] If the current Iranian rulers, including Khomeyni, had been reasonable and minimally logical, we would have said yes, the Al-Faw battle should prompt the Iranian leadership to think carefully and in a new way about ending this war. But we are still confident that the group ruling Iran continues to be swayed by sick ambitions, imagination, and hypochondria. Therefore, we do not believe that our victory and the restoration of Al-Faw will weaken their desire for war. On the contrary, it will prompt them to take new foolish actions. We hope they will take such actions, which will make them lose much while undermining any peace prospects. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Regarding the Iraqi Al-Husayn and Al-'Abbas missiles, I wonder: What is the identity of these missiles, especially since Western commentators insist that Iraq has developed its Soviet-made missiles with Soviet technical assistance?

[Ramadan] Our missiles are 100-percent Iraqi. If the missiles had been Soviet, the Soviet Union would have announced it, or at least would have protested, because any development of any foreign weapons is subject to laws and rights. Regrettably, neither Iran nor Israel has accepted this reality because they do not like the idea that the Arabs can manufacture anything that can confront challenges. I believe that Israel was more upset than Iran because Iran sees as far as its feet while Israel looks far ahead and depends on surprise and technology because it cannot confront the huge Arab population. If the Arabs can overcome the technical problem, Israel will no longer exist.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean that your missiles are not developed versions of the Soviet-made Scud-B and SS-12 missiles?

[Ramadan] We have never obtained SS-12 missiles, but we have obtained Scud-B. Iran also obtained the same missile from Libya and the DPRK. The range of Scud-B is only 270 km. How can this range become 650 or 900 km? Any ordinary development increases the range only by 5 or 10 percent. This is what happened regarding the field guns. We increase the explosive charge in field guns with a range of 17 km to increase their range up to 19-21 km. If the range becomes 60 km, it can be considered a new gun.

[Al-Sa'id] Have you not imported the parts of the missile and assembled them?

[Ramadan] We have not imported any parts and there is nothing called assembling. We have manufactured a purely Iraqi missile.

[Al-Sa'id] Have you used all the weapons you have, or do you have new weapons that can be used in the future?

[Ramadan] We have not yet used all the new cards we have in the war. New weapons will appear on time. We have missiles and other weapons that can annihilate huge numbers of people. We take into account the population factor in Iran, and we do our best to avoid human losses. Therefore, we have weapons that can annihilate large numbers of enemy troops.

[Al-Sa'id] Regarding the use of chemical weapons, why was Iraq accused in the international arena of violating the 1925 Geneva Convention, although Iran also used chemical weapons? Is this due to the weakness and unfairness of the international community?

[Ramadan] The recent statement by the UN secretary general holds Iraq and Iran responsible for using chemical weapons. At certain stages, some known parties have tried to cast doubts about Iraq. Iran tried to avoid Resolution No 598 by making the issue of the chemical weapons central. But we are not talking like others. We say that in defending our territories, we will use all types of weapons.

Those who oppose this can do whatever they like. We cannot rely on the idea that the international community can end the war, and we also reject any move by the international community to ask us not to use certain weapons. I agree that the international community is weak. The international community and the Security Council did not fulfill their roles to end the war. They

also were subject to blackmail more than once, or at least some Security Council member states were victims of blackmail, opportunism, and centers of influence.

[Al-Sa'id] The PRC adopted a certain position following the U.S.-Iranian clash in the Arabian Gulf on 18 April. Then it retreated from its support for the imposition of an arms embargo on Iran. How do you view that?

[Ramadan] In fact, not only the PRC adopted such a negative position. Some other permanent Security Council member states also adopted the same position. This is a dishonest and immoral position. We regret the position of the PRC, a big power with a future and principles. We regret the PRC position on the Iraq-Iran war. It is Iran's main source of weapons. Although it denies it, the entire world and we know the truth. The battlefields also confirm that the PRC is the main source of Iranian weapons and equipment.

[Al-Sa'id] Can the superpowers' rapprochement put an end to the Iraq-Iran war, or does such a step depend on their calculations?

[Ramadan] No. Calculations are one thing and the superpowers' capability is another. The superpowers can end the war. Certain interests and motivations, which I call opportunism, prevent such a step.

[Al-Sa'id] Did the Soviet step to take a balanced postiion between Iraq and Iran come at your expense?

[Ramadan] We did not want the Soviet Union to appear in such a political framework. Regarding bilateral relations, we can say that things are normal and there is nothing new.

[Al-Sa'id] What about Egyptian military support for Iraq?

[Ramadan] Coordination and cooperation with Egypt continue. Our need for Egyptian weapons and equipment is now limited because of the expansion and development of our local production.

[Al-Sa'id] In 1984, 800 Egyptians volunteered for the Popular Army. The total number of the Arab volunteers was 1,150. How many Egyptians are there in the Popular Army?

[Ramadan] The number of Arab volunteers in the Popular Army is approximately 1,150, but the number of Egyptians has dropped. Now there are 300 Egyptians.

Ramadan Receives YAR's Makki in Baghdad

JN2305151888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1411 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 23 May (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has asserted that Iraq will achieve a decisive victory and that peace will prevail in the region. He said the Iraqi people under President Saddam Husayn will foil the Khomeyniite-Zionist conspiracy. This came when Taha Yasin Ramadan met here today with YAR Deputy Prime Minister Dr Hasan Makki.

During the meeting, Dr Hasan Makki conveyed the YAR's congratulations to Iraq on liberating Al-Faw. He said the liberation of Al-Faw was an epic, evoking Iraqi pride, and a victory for all Arabs. The Iraqi and YAR officials reviewed the advanced relations between the two fraternal countries and stressed the importance of expanding them in all fields.

It is noteworthy that the YAR official is visiting Iraq to participate in the world popular conference for peace, which will begin work here the day after tomorrow.

Makki Meets Tariq 'Aziz

JN2305182588 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received YAR Deputy Prime Minister Dr Hasan Makki, who is currently visiting Iraq to participate in the world popular conference for peace. During the meeting, they discussed the fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries, the situation in the region, and issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the director of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Department, and the YAR ambassador in Baghdad.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,187

JN2305164188 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1604 GMT 23 May 88

[Communique No 3,187 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. Today, our heroic Air Force flew 145 combat missions, which inflicted further losses on the aggressors. Afterward, all our planes returned safely to base in God's care.

2. While the helicopter gunship knights were carrying out their missions in the I Army Corps northern sector, they spotted an enemy Bell-214 helicopter, fired at it, and downed it. It was seen falling in flames on the enemy units at 1100 [0700 GMT] today. This is the second plane hunted down by the knights during the past 24 hours. Our helicopter gunships flew 163 combat missions in various operational sectors, which inflicted important losses on the enemy personnel, weapons, and

equipment. Afterward, all our helicopter gunships returned safely to base. Blessed be your efforts, O knights. Determination and success come from God.

3. A courageous force from one of our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan raided enemy positions opposite them. With an efficient performance and splendid backing by the artillery and mortar men, the force stormed these positions, destroying them along with their evil occupants and their weapons. More than 20 enemy soldiers were killed and others were wounded. The remainder of enemy troops fled, leaving behind their dead along with their destroyed weapons and positions. After carrying out its duty, the force returned safely to base. May God bless our valiant men in the heroic IV Army Corps. Praise be to God for His victory.

4. Through concentrated blows by artillery against selected enemy targets in the I Army Corps northern sector, 18 scoundrels were killed; 6 various vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed, one carrying personnel; and 2 infantry positions and an observation post were destroyed.

5. Two enemy troops were killed in the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar forces. Moreover, three others were killed; five infantry positions and an observation post were destroyed; and an ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. In the VII Army Corps sector three infantry positions and one machinegun were destroyed and four ammunition dumps were blown up.

7. Today, the criminal Iranian enemy used long-range artillery to shell residential areas in the village of Darband-i Khan. The enemy shelling injured civilians and damaged civilian property.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 May 1988

Iranian F-5 Downed

JN2405072288 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0704 GMT 24 May 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 24 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 0626 [0226 GMT] today, two enemy F-5 planes attempted to penetrate our international border in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. The brave men of our antiaircraft units confronted them and downed one, which fell in flames inside enemy territory before the eyes of our heroic soldiers. The other plane fled. Blessed be the men of our field antiaircraft units in the heroic III Army Corps sector.

[Dated] 24 May 1988

Corpses Found Off Kuwait Said Iranian Guards

JN2005160388 Baghdad INA in English 1550 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, May 20, INA—Commenting on a report published by the Kuwaiti daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM today that dozens of mutilated corpses have been recently found floating off the Kuwaiti coast, INA's editor for foreign affairs said these corpses belong to the Iranian Guards killed by the victorious Iraqi Armed forces during the liberation of Al-Faw last month.

Those guards were attempting to flee to the other bank of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway when Iraqi Armed Forces stormed their positions.

"When caught by the intensity of the Iraqi fire, the fleeing Iranian soldiers threw themselves in the waterway," the editor said.

Rabin Denies Aid in PRC Missile Development
TA2305154088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 May 88

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that the Israelis have not been involved in any Chinese activity related to surface-to-surface missiles or in the transfer of technology connected with these missiles, neither during the 1960's nor during the 1980's. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that this was Mr Rabin's response to U.S. media reports linking the Chinese missiles in Saudi Arabia to Israeli technology. Mr Rabin was addressing a gathering of contractors in Tel Aviv. [passage omitted]

Beilin: Change, No 'Breakthrough' in Soviet Stand
TA2305144488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 23 May 88

[Telephone interview with Dr Yosi Beilin, political director general of the Foreign Ministry, by Aharon Barne'a and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami in the studio—live]

[Text] [Barne'a] Dr Beilin, in view of what Dubinin read to Mr Peres, do you think there is any change in the Soviet position?

[Beilin] I do see changes here, although I do not see any revolution or any breakthrough. I do not want to exaggerate. I do, however, find encouraging signs, and I am extremely sorry that my good friend Yosi Ben-Aharon has made himself the prophet of no change. Whenever there is an Arab leader who says something that can be construed as a positive shift, Ben-Aharon says there is no change, and this applies to the Soviet issue as well. Had Ben-Aharon said that he wished to attend a particular kind of international conference, such as the one proposed by Shultz or Peres for example, and had he then maintained that the conference proposed by the Soviets differs from it, I could understand him.

What he is saying, however, is that he will never attend an international conference, even if it is under the auspices of the World Jewish Congress. At the same time he is also saying that the conference proposed by the Soviets is not good enough for him.

We have here a problem with the credibility of his argument. Only someone who is willing to attend an international conference can reject a particular proposal. Therefore I find it hard to accept the sincerity of his criticism of the Soviet proposal. I, too, am dissatisfied with the Soviet proposal. They have certainly not said what we want, but there are several changes here which you have already pointed to during your talk with Ben-Aharon, such as withdrawal from territories and not all the territories, the fact that self-determination does not necessarily refer to a Palestinian state...

[Barne'a, interrupting] A confederation with Jordan, for example.

[Beilin] Yes. There is also a division here between the PLO as the representative of the Palestinians and between the PLO's participation in the international conference, and there is also a willingness for interim arrangements. I still do not settle for all of this. To come like Ben-Aharon, however, and say that there is nothing here serves neither the country's interests nor his own.

[Ben-'Ami] Dr Beilin, I would like to ask you a question we have asked Mr Ben-Aharon. Is there not a sense of excessive optimism following Peres' talks in Washington and Madrid, judging from the fact that only hours later Radio Moscow attacked Mr Peres? Is not the feeling of a breakthrough, or even a minor one, mistaken?

[Beilin] Look, I am against euphoria here and elsewhere, I am against exaggerated optimism, and I cannot be accused of that. I am, however, certainly alert to and interested in any progress, however minor, toward a political settlement. I do see a certain change here. It is well known that there is no agreement between us and the Soviet Union, and Radio Moscow has criticized Shim'on Peres in the past and will do so in the future as well. The question is: Is there progress here? I am saying that there is, and I think whoever says there is no progress here does not want to see progress. One cannot go along with Yosi Ben-Aharon's statement that the Soviets are telling each party what it wants to hear.

We are dealing here with a paper. It may be referred to as a nonpaper [preceding word in English], but it does exist, and the Soviet Union would not have come out with such a paper simply to satisfy the Israeli foreign minister. Regarding the somewhat empty argument that international conferences are to be accepted only after suffering a defeat in war, let me remind Ben-Aharon that the then Prime Minister Menahem Begin called for an international conference in 1977, and I do not recall our having lost a war at that time. Therefore I think his arguments are irrelevant.

We are faced with two concepts. One maintains that our situation is good and that we should not rush into peace arrangements or rush to embrace any concrete proposal, such as the Shultz initiative or an initiative to convene an international conference as an opening. The other maintains that we must take advantage of every opening toward peace as long as our security is guaranteed. I believe that this is the root of the problem.

Soviets Delaying Consular Delegation Visas
TA2405065788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] The Soviet authorities are holding up the Israeli consular delegation's arrival because they want to deal with Soviet Jewry issues, Vladimir Terasov, deputy head

of the Middle East Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, told Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel has the details:

The Soviets may be showing flexibility on theoretical political issues, but they are sticking to their old and somewhat tough attitudes when it comes to actual implementation. At the end of last week Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser, met with Vladimir Terasov, the deputy head of the Middle East Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry. The extended 7-hour meeting took place in Zurich, Switzerland.

When the Soviet official was asked about developments regarding the Israeli diplomatic delegation, he said the Soviet response was positive. The Israelis will be permitted to enter, but they must stick to the delegation's original purpose: checking out Israeli property in Moscow and looking into the activities of the Netherlands Embassy, which represents Israeli interests in the USSR and provides visas for those wishing to come to Israel. This was what was agreed upon in the previous meeting between Novik and Terasov some 6 months ago in Helsinki.

But when the Israeli Foreign Ministry presented the visa requests several months ago, it said the delegation also wishes to deal with the issue of Jews who want to emigrate to Israel. The Soviets are opposed to this.

Jerusalem must now decide whether to swallow the bitter pill and change the request for entry visas, limiting the delegation's functions and perhaps cutting its size down from six to three members, as was decided on at the outset. Otherwise the Israeli diplomats may be forced to remain in Jerusalem for a long time, while the visa requests remain in a drawer in the Foreign Ministry in Moscow.

Nimrod Novik Meets With Soviets in Zurich

TA2305164288 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 May 88 p 2

[Report by the diplomatic correspondent]

[Excerpt] For the third time in two weeks, top Israeli and Soviet officials have held talks, as the foreign minister's political adviser, Dr. Nimrod Novik, met in Zurich over the weekend with Vladimir Terasov, deputy head of the Middle East department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Foreign Minister Peres is to report today to the cabinet on his visit to Hungary, Spain and the United States.

Well-placed sources in both the prime minister's office and the Foreign Ministry say the descriptions of the latest changes in the Soviet position towards the international conference were exaggerated. [passage omitted]

Rabin Supports Importing Foreign Laborers

TA2305140688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] I will do all I can to approve the importation of thousands of workers from abroad in view of the absence of workers from the territories from jobs in vital industries. This promise was made today by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the building contractors association.

[Begin Rabin recording] The territories residents must realize that working in Israel is a privilege. They are doing us no favor. It is a reciprocal matter, involving common interests. I do not want the residents of the territories to have the feeling that we are so dependent on them that they can dictate our economic development to us. If there are 6,000, or perhaps 8,000 workers we can import for key positions, I consider them a factor contributing not merely to the economy—this is a subject I know less about—but to our defense. [end recording]

The defense minister's remarks were reported by our military affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David.

Jordanians Cancel Visit; Territory Unrest Cited

TA2305155788 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 May 88 p A2

[Report by 'Oded Schorer]

[Text] A group of Jordanian engineers and scientists scheduled to arrive on a secret visit to Israel for the discussion of the use of oil shale canceled its visit several days ago because of the events in the territories. This was confirmed last weekend by Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal.

The Jordanian representatives were scheduled to arrive this week to discuss ways of cooperating in the use of oil shale on both sides of the border, on the basis of Israeli technology. For the last few months there have been intensive discussions regarding cooperation on this issue. In the last few days the Jordanian announcement on the postponement of the visit was received. The reason for the postponement, according to the Jordanians, is the events in the territories.

Shahal Reports on Energy Cooperation With Egypt

TA2305160288 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 May 88 p 3

[Report by Yosef Michalsky]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Israel exports oil products totaling $100 million annually to Egypt, and imports from Egypt about 4.5 million tonnes of crude oil a year, 1 million tonnes of which is imported according to a contract and the rest by free trade. These figures were released last week by Energy Minister Moshe Shahal.

The minister added that the two countries cooperate in various spheres, such as marine agriculture energy and a joint project in which scientists from both countries experiment with the breeding of mullet fish in closed surroundings. Talks are also held regarding an Israeli solar station construction in Egypt.

Shahal further revealed that plans had existed for the supply of gas from Alexandria to Israel and for the cabling of the two countries' electricity systems with West European states, but these projects, as well as the Egyptian electricity and energy minister's visit to Israel, were foiled by the events in the territories. Contacts with Jordanian experts on the subject of cooperation in the 'Arava development were also discontinued.

Despite the situation, an Egyptian delegation of energy experts is due to arrive in Israel at the beginning of June.

Tabah Arbitration Process Causing 'Great Concern'

TA2305143488 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 May 88 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] As the arbitrators in the Tabah border dispute near a decision, Jerusalem believes that Israel may lose. Over the last few days, great concern has been expressed both in the prime minister's office and the Foreign Ministry over indications that there is a very slim chance the tribunal will accept Israel's arguments.

As a result, an additional effort will be made this week to reach a compromise between Israel and Egypt. The political echelon is considering dispatching a high-level delegation to Cairo. In the meantime, however, the United States is expected to ask the parties to once again engage in a dialogue through the offices of mediator Abraham Sofaer.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1030 GMT on 23 May reports on the cabinet session, in which "Minister Moshe Shahal demanded a debate on the Tabah issue in view of reports published this morning that the Tabah tribunal of arbitrators is inclined to adopt the Egyptian stand. Shahal said it is inconceivable for the cabinet to sit idly by while a compromise is found that may avoid concessions in the area. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir denied the request."]

UNIFIL Claims IDF Fired at Lebanon Positions

TA2405084088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 May 88 p 1

[Report by David Rudge]

[Excerpt] Rosh Haniqra—UNIFIL yesterday charged that IDF troops "deliberately" shot at a Norwegian position inside the security zone in south Lebanon and hit an armoured personnel carrier (APC).

The IDF spokesman said last night that it was investigating the alleged incident, which reportedly occurred at a UNIFIL checkpoint near the village of Ibil al-Saqy, north of Marj 'Uyun, after midnight on Sunday.

There were no casualties, but Timur Goksel, the spokesman of the international peace-keeping force, said the organization took a very serious view of the matter.

He maintained that there were no unusual or suspicious activities in the area at the time and the shooting was "completely unwarranted." [passage omitted]

Drug Smuggling on Beirut-Haifa Route Foiled

TA2105193088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 May 88

[Excerpts] Over the weekend the Christian forces in Beirut released Egyptian Captain Muhammad Sa'id (Nofal), who sails on the Haifa-Beirut route over which goods are transferred from Israel to Lebanon. The Christians in Beirut wanted to use the ships plying this route to transfer drugs to Israel, and when the captain refused to do so he was severely beaten and jailed. Moti 'Eden reports on the Beirut-Haifa trade.

[Begin videorecording] The shipping route between Haifa, the Al-Naqurah port, and Beirut has been operating quite secretly for 5 years now. Three ships sail this route, transporting salt, sugar, fruits, vegetables, and meat from Israel—goods worth many millions of dollars annually. The Israeli goods are unloaded in Beirut, and most of them are in high demand east of Beirut, in Damascus.

Two weeks ago the Christian Lebanese Forces in Beirut decided not to let the ships return to Haifa empty. Someone in these forces decided that the ships should sail back to Haifa with a hashish cargo, with the victim on that occasion being Muhammad Sa'id (Nofal), the Egyptian captain of the ship ("Mirkati"), which was berthed at gate No 5 of Beirut's port. [passage omitted]

Captain (Nofal's) release over the weekend was effected largely thanks to Israeli pressure. Otherwise, he might have remained in jail or disappeared for good in one of the well-known Lebanese methods. For his crew, which includes two women, the captain has surely been reborn. [end recording]

VOA Transmission Station Opening Ceremony Held

TA2005074388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] The cornerstone for the VOA transmission station in the 'Arava was laid in a symbolic ceremony in the Knesset building in Jerusalem yesterday. The VOA project will bring Israel investments totaling about $170 million. Our correspondent Natan Gutman was in the Knesset yesterday.

[Begin recording] [Gutman] The VOA transmission station in the 'Arava, one of the largest projects in Israel, has been launched. The cornerstone laying ceremony for this station took place in the Knesset building yesterday. Communications Minister Gad Ya'aqobi explained that about $170 million of the project will be spent in Israel, thus increasing the level of economic activity in the 'Arava region in particular.

A debate developed around this issue with the project's opponents claiming that U.S. propaganda broadcasts from Israel will unfavorably influence the nature of future relations with the USSR. Minister Ya'aqobi takes issue with this argument.

[Ya'aqobi] I think this has been proven a marginal issue. I think that the USSR is also not giving expression to the fact that this is a significant issue in today's or possible future relations.

[Gutman] The transmission station which will be set up in the 'Arava will be one of the largest used by VOA. It will also serve Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. The VOA director general defines the objective of the station as a tool for supplying reliable and objective information to people who cannot receive such information in their countries. Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, said in his speech that the VOA agreement serves the interests of both Israel and the United States. [end recording]

Deqel Ends Swiss Talks on Gas Attack Defense

TA2405050188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mikha'el Deqel has proposed learning from Switzerland how to protect the home front against a gas attack. Deputy Minister Deqel returned last night from an official 1-week visit to Switzerland, where he studied the issue. He told our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe that he will hold wide-ranging talks on the subject of defending the home front against a gas attack, in view of the threats from Arab countries.

Polish Delegation Discusses Economic Cooperation

TA1905152788 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 May 88 p 8

[Report by Arye Lavi and Avi Gan'or]

[Text] A delegation of senior Polish economic representatives met last Tuesday in Ramat Gan with Israeli businessmen and economic representatives. The Poles briefed their hosts on the recent shift in their country's approach to business ties with Western countries, and on their desire to improve commercial relations and cooperation with Israel.

The Polish group consisted of eight delegates, including the PKO [Polish Savings Bank] governor, the Polish deputy minister of foreign trade, the export bank president, and the chamber of commerce vice president.

The Polish delegates, who initiated the meeting, said that 725 foreign and private companies operate in their country at present. They withdrew their previous demand to conduct barter deals only, noting that they are capable of conducting business in hard currency, too.

The Israeli representatives expressed their readiness to increase Polish raw material imports, which are much cheaper than those from the West. The meeting was concluded by an agreement to promote cooperation between the Polish and Israeli Chambers of Commerce and to exchange delegations.

The Poles invited Israeli businessmen and companies to establish industrial plants in Poland, mainly in textiles and agriculture. Moshe Zanbar invited the Polish guests to establish jointly financed companies in Israel, and said Israel could process unfinished Polish products, adding 35 percent extra value, and export them to the United States.

Participation in Warsaw Fair Pavilion Reported

TA1805171388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] The largest international book fair of its kind in East Europe opened today in Warsaw. Israel is taking part in the fair, and its flag is flying alongside those of all other participating countries. Polish Vice President Kazimierz Barcikowski opened the fair, visited the Israeli pavilion, and talked with Mordekhay Paltzur, our representative in Warsaw. Our correspondent Eliyahu Zehavi reports that Polish television aired the vice president's visit to the Israeli pavilion, and contrary to previous years. Polish papers today reported on Israel's participation in the fair.

Poland's Solidarity Activists Protest to Herzog

TA2305165188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 May 88 p 4

[Report by Greer Fay Cashman]

[Excerpts] Visiting Solidarity activists Dr. Zofia Kuratowska and her husband, Gregorz Jaszunski, protested angrily to President Hayim Herzog last week that Israeli officials have met with Polish officials known to be anti-Semitic, but have avoided Solidarity unionists.

They were dismayed that members of the Israeli delegation which last month attended the 45th anniversary commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising had not attended Solidarity's memorial ceremony. The latter,

they pointed out, was organized by Dr. Marek Edelman, one of the founders of the Warsaw Ghetto Fighters' Organization and second in command of the ghetto uprising. [passage omitted]

Mordekhay Paltzur head of the Israel interests section in Warsaw, has also avoided Solidarity, according to the Solidarity activists. The diplomatic corps, they said, came in large numbers to the Solidarity commemoration, and are in touch with Solidarity all the time. The only exception from a democratic country, they said, was Paltzur.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Ehud Gol told THE JERUSALEM POST that he had no knowledge of any directives instructing Paltzur to keep his distance from Solidarity. At the same time, he noted, Paltzur is in a very sensitive position because full diplomatic ties between Poland and Israel have not yet been restored.

Eight Companies Participate in Budapest Fair

TA1805072088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] A large technological fair will open in Budapest this morning, with the participation of eight Israeli companies. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman notes that this is the first time Israeli companies have participated openly, displaying their Israeli-labeled products. At the same time, the Hungarians did not allow the Israeli organizers to fly an Israeli flag on top of the pavilion. Our correspondent reports that the eight Israeli companies will display technological-industrial equipment in the agriculture and electronics spheres as well as medical equipment.

Black South African Leader Arrives on Visit

TA2005140388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] (Dr Mpata Motlana), one of the RSA's black leaders, president of the Association of Soweto Residents, arrived in Israel at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry. Upon arrival, he said that blacks criticize Israel's links with South Africa and tend to identify with the Arab struggle, but that he has come to learn the issues firsthand. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that (Dr Motlana's) arrival is a result of efforts to improve links with the authentic black leadership in South Africa.

Explosive Dismantled in Jerusalem; No Damage

TA2405073688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] An explosive device was dismantled in Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood without causing any damage. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that someone discovered the charge at the entrance to an apartment block on Hadmumit Street. Police sappers called to the spot defused the charge. The police call on the public to be alert and inform them of any suspicious objects.

Minister Reports Explosives Found in Settlement

TA2305201588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Yesterday morning an explosive charge was found under a house in the settlement of Ma'ale Shomron. This was reported to the government today by Minister Yosef Shapira. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami notes that the deputy chief of staff who attended the government session knew nothing about this. Minister Shapira also reported that on his way to one of the settlements in Samaria on Friday he ran into a roadblock in the Qalqilyah junction. He complained that the IDF soldiers did not react properly to the incident.

Settlers Hold Shamir Responsible for Security

TA2005045988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] A new action committee of settlers in Samaria is placing the responsibility for the shaky security situation in the territories on Prime Minister Shamir. A member of the action committee, Me'ir Har-Noy of Qedumim, complained to our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar that Jewish residents are injured daily in the territories, and that it is up to the prime minister to act to restore complete quiet. The action committee intends to collect information on security incidents in the territories and to pass this on to Mr Shamir.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Youth Wounded By IDF Fire

TA2405144288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] An Arab youth was wounded in Bayt Furik in Nabulus District during a demonstration near the main road by local villagers. An IDF officer fired a .22-caliber rifle and wounded the youth, who was taken to a Nabulus hospital.

Mayor's Resignation Denied

TA2305134388 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 May 88 pp 1, 17

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] After a month of deliberations, Ramallah Mayor Khalil Musa resigned a few days ago.

A spokesman for the Judaea and Samaria Civilian Administration has denied the reports that Ramallah Mayor Khalil Musa resigned, as a Palestinian source reported earlier.

W. Bank Schools Reopen 23 May

TA2305162588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Following a 3-month long forced vacation, 200,000 elementary school students returned to school in Judaea and Samaria today. So far today there have been no unusual incidents in the territories, and the return to school passed without any disturbances.

Funds Transfers Hindered

TA2305160088 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 23 May 88 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] The spirit of the "awakening" has been severely damaged by the cutoff of routes for transferring funds from the PLO to the leaders of the uprising in the territories. Since the outbreak of the uprising [preceding word in Arabic], the residents of the territories have been allowed to bring no more than 400 dinars through the official entrance points to Israel.

Attempts have been made recently to smuggle money through the border terminal in Rafah and through Ben-Gurion Airport.

From the outbreak of the uprising until now, donations by the Arab oil states amounting to approximately $2.5 million have poured in. The money was donated to the detained, striking, or bereaved residents of the territories. The Jordanian Government recently published an announcement inviting all uprising casualties' families to receive monthly salaries in the Waqf's offices.

Rumors have circulated that the large amounts promised by the Arab states, but not received by the residents of the territories, have been pocketed by PLO leaders for their personal use.

The uprising leaders had agreed to cover the damages sustained by policemen, merchants, and municipal employees who were forced to resign, but the funds never reached these people.

The restriction of 400 dinars on the amount that can be brought into Israel is circumvented by attempts to transfer funds through Arabs who are U.S. nationals and who arrive in Israel on tourist visas. They bring the money to the intended recipient, declaring it as their personal donation to the residents of the territories. A tourist recently distributed $25,000 in a refugee camp near Ramallah.

Attempts have also been made to transfer funds through the Red Cross and UNRWA, who bring them to the intended recipients. UNRWA recently distributed about $50,000 to terrorists' families whose houses had been demolished.

IDF, Palestinian Casualty Lists

TA1805114888 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 18 May 88 p 5

[Report by Orit Zerubabel]

[Text] On Monday, 16 May, the IDF spokesman reported that 190 people had been killed since the start of the uprising in the territories up to Sunday 15 May, according to the following breakdown:
— 152 killed by IDF fire
— 21 killed in unclear circumstances
— 17 killed in circumstances still being investigated.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, report 253 Palestinians killed, according to the following breakdown:
— 175 killed by IDF fire
— 49 killed by breathing noxious gases
— 14 killed by beatings and electrocutions
— 15 killed in unclear circumstances.

On Monday, two more fatalities were officially announced.

Unrest Adds 2 Percent to Debt

TA2005114388 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (Hashekel Shelkha supplement) in Hebrew 20 May 88 p 1

[Report by Yisra'l Tomer]

[Text] How much is the unrest in the territories costing us? At first, 500 million shekels was mentioned. Afterward, it was 700 to 800 million shekels. This figure took into account: additional defense expenditures, a decline in requests for Israeli products and services because of the ongoing commercial strike, damage to Israel's tourism industry because of the damage to the country's image abroad, flight cancellations, and the direct damage caused by the absence of Arabs from their work in Israel.

But this figure did not take into account the indirect influence of the unrest on the Consumer Price Index [CPI]. The price of fruit and vegetables, which was hit by the absence of workers, was responsible for some 2 percent of the increase in the CPI over the past 4 months.

This 2 percent, amounting to 2 billion shekels, caused the government's internal debt to rise to 75 billion shekels.

Census Reveals Arab Population Data Discrepancy

TA1305163388 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (Shiv'a Yamim supplement) in Hebrew 13 May 88 p 36

[Report by Arye Avneri]

[Text] The "West Bank Project" directed by Dr Meron Benvenisti recently compiled data on the number of Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Until this project, no current data existed because no census had

been conducted in the past 20 years. The results show that the current Arab population in the territories is 20 percent higher than Israeli estimates indicate.

The data is based on checklists, polls, and the Interior Ministry's population registry for the last 15 years. According to the study, the number of Arabs in the territories at the end of 1987 totaled 1.74 million (300,000 more than Central Bureau of Statistics data indicate).

According to the bureau, 2.5 million Arabs and 3.6 million Jews today live within the boundaries of Eretz Yisra'el (the territories, East Jerusalem, and the area within the Green Line). Hence, the ratio between Jews and Arabs is 59 to 41, rather than the official ratio of 62 to 38.

The Central Bureau of Statistics foresees the number of Jews in Eretz Yisra'el dropping below 60 percent at the beginning of the 1990's. According to "West Bank Project" estimates, the process will occur much earlier.

Shultz Plan, Loss of 'Jordanian Option' Examined

TA2005181588 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 May 88 p A10

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "The White House Slips"—passages in boldface as published]

[Text] Earlier this month Yitzhaq Shamir sent a letter to Reagan regarding a statement the U.S President made concerning peace and Israel, in which Shamir indirectly criticized the statement issued by the White House this week on Israel's commitment to peace.

Reagan qualified his remarks at the ceremony held on Israel's Independence Day to sign the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation by saying that "strategic cooperation can succeed only when there are common interests which include a commitment to building peace and stability in the region." Reagan even pointed to the Shultz plan as being the only realistic basis for making progress.

Although he abstained from entering a public confrontation with the administration over this unfortunate statement, Shamir was worried about **long-term** strategic cooperation being made conditional on the acceptance of a hopeless **ephemeral** plan. At the same time, the criticism leveled in Israel against George Shultz for his support of Shamir—through the prize given him in the form of a memorandum of understanding—did not escape the prime minister. It was not hard for Shamir to guess who inspired the orchestrated criticism in Israel against Shultz, seeing that one newspaper wrote:

"Political sources in Jerusalem criticized the United States for deeming it fit to secure the signing of a memorandum of understanding and approving the F-15 deal, particularly when Shamir continues to dig in his heels in the face of Shultz' pleadings. According to these sources, this encourages Shamir, since it proves that the United States will not take any measures against him."

The measures against Shamir were what "certain sources in Jerusalem" yearned for and they had no scruples about approaching the conservative Margaret Thatcher and the socialist Bettino Craxi in order to extract the agreement of certain Washington officials to object to Shultz' line of action which ruled out the use of pressure on Shamir. The secretary of state wanted the plan named after him to succeed, but he remained faithful to his principles not to use economic or psychological means of coercion to twist Israel's arm. Shultz refused to threaten Shamir and did not demand an answer by 15 March, as the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem claimed.

This is also why Shamir treated Shultz with kid gloves and did not react to Reagan's remarks during the Independence Day ceremony. Shamir opted for stating a fact in his letter: Israel strives for peace and will do everything it can for the sake of peace. At the same time, it strives for a strategic understanding with the United States, and each of these two goals stands on its own merit. Striving for peace does not depend on strategic cooperation, and **strategic** understanding does not depend on agreements about **the tactics** for attaining peace.

This was the message in Shamir's letter to Reagan in response to his congratulatory speech on the occasion of Independence Day. Shamir's opponents, however, did not stop criticizing Shultz because of his alleged support for Shamir and his refraining from exerting pressure on him. This criticism was not kept secret, but was voiced openly in Jewish rallies, in articles by Israelis published in the U.S. press, and most of all, in an unbridled campaign in Israeli media rapping Shultz' impotence. This steamroller proved effective. The statement issued on behalf of the President at the end of Peres' visit proves that the officials triumphed over the secretary of state.

One day before the Peres-Reagan meeting, U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci addressed the AIPAC [American-Israel Public Affairs Committee] annual convention. After praising the current U.S. approach toward a settlement, calling it "realistic and feasible," Carlucci added a very significant phrase: **"We do not have a plan that can guarantee the end of the** (Israeli-Arab) **conflict."**

Their experience in Indochina, the Persian Gulf, and Lebanon has taught U.S. leaders not to promise that wars will not continue even after a settlement is attained. Carlucci's remarks were no slip of the tongue. Remarks in the same vein were made by U.S. diplomats in talks with European leaders who pointedly demanded that Washington twist Shamir's arm. And what will happen if after listening to your advice, peace is not attained?, the Americans argued back.

Washington has more than one reason not to throw all its weight behind "the Shultz plan," the most important being their disillusionment with Husayn. The king, who only a few months ago was at the height of his influence, is now in a state of depression and despair. He was magnanimous with Saddam Husayn and supplied Iraq with many goods on credit, but now Jordan is experiencing economic hardships because of Iraq's inability to pay its debts. Anti-Americanism is so flagrant in Amman that many Jordanians are afraid to attend parties given by the U.S. Embassy, while Palestinians are rebelling against the Hashemite regime. That is why Washington has begun having doubts about the "Jordanian option"—which is one of the cornerstones of Shultz' plan—as far as a settlement is concerned.

There are two reason why the U.S. Administration is not shelving the plan. First, it is not customary to announce a failure. Formally, the "Rogers plan" and the "Reagan plan" still exist. Second, administration officials say, the plan should not be aborted as long as a better one has not been found. Nevertheless, both Washington and Jerusalem realize that there are no chances of implementing the Shultz plan at present. It can only make a contribution on three points: 1) serve as a sort of working paper for talks with the Soviet Union on the Middle East; 2) reiterate to the Arabs that the United States continues to be the main addressee for any settlement; 3) although Shultz goes to great lengths not to add another objective to his plan, officials in Washington see it as a lever to influence the results of elections in Israel.

For many months the United States promised to present Peres with a political memorandum of understanding for his signature to allay Israel's fears about international coercion, but the draft of this memorandum has been long in coming. One should not rule out the possibility that certain officials in Jerusalem thought that the **strategic** memorandum between Reagan and Shamir should be balanced with a similar **political** memorandum with Peres. The Americans were not thrilled about the idea and chose to give Peres credit for his contribution to the strategic understanding, although it was not too long ago that the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem was complaining that it had not been included in the negotiations on the strategic agreement. As Frank Carlucci asserted this week, the truth is that the basis for strategic cooperation was laid 5 years ago; namely, before the establishment of the national unity government.

The bitter taste left by the dispute between David Ben-Gurion and Moshe Sharet over who should be credited with French Prime Minister Edgar Faure's decision to send Israel its first 12 jet fighters must be a warning to all of us not to engage in an argument over who is to be credited with attaining the strategic agreement. But the very fact that an element outside Israel thinks that giving marks to one person or another can influence the upcoming elections in Israel gives rise to concern because it creates an ambience of coercion, notwithstanding the promises not to coerce an agreement.

Gerald Kaufman, a Jew, is the British Labor Party's spokesman on foreign affairs. Just before he was due to confer with Shamir in Jerusalem, he made a statement in Nabulus denouncing Israel. Consequently, Shamir refused to meet him. Speaking from the British Parliament podium upon his return to London, he lashed out at Shamir for the recent Israeli raid in Lebanon and praised Peres for his peace policy.

In the end, none of those attending the short debate in the British Parliament could tell the difference between Shamir's "rejectionism" and Peres' "willingness to compromise." All those present, including the Tory foreign secretary, rallied around the demand that Israel should get out of the security zone.

The same applies to the Washington official who wanted to do Peres a public relations service. He erred in his assessment of this kind of ploy on the Israeli voter. Its influence could be exactly the opposite from what he intended. Such ploys may influence Jews in the United States to make donations to the Israeli election campaign, but they cannot make the "Shultz plan" its key theme. The Jordanian option, which was the core of this plan, is now gone.

Limited Israeli Arab Role in 'Uprising' Analyzed

TA1305171188 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
13 May 88 p 15

[Commentary by Dani Rubinstein: "Why They Are Not Joining In"]

[Text] After 5 months, it can be said with quite a measure of certainty that Israel's Arabs have not joined the uprising in the territories. Although they staged two general strikes as a token of solidarity with the uprising, one must not forget that there are also quite a few Jews in Israel who identify with the Arabs in the territories. Palestinian flags were flown and stones were thrown here and there, but these were merely marginal incidents. Subsequent investigations revealed that in many cases the perpetrators were youngsters from the territories who took up temporary lodgings in Arab villages and neighborhoods in Israel. For example, take the stone throwing incidents on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway near Abu Ghaush. Investigators found out that the perpetrators were youngsters from Qatannah, a neighboring village north of Abu Ghaush on the other side of the Green Line.

Why are Israel's Arabs not joining their Palestinian brethren in the territories? Do they have it so good in the State of Israel?

In the past, I posed a similar question to Arab acquaintances in the West Bank with respect to the Palestinians east of the Jordan River: Why do they not express their support for Palestinian nationalism and the PLO by joining their rebelling brethren in the territories? The answers I received may be summarized in one sentence.

Discrimination is not a problem in Jordan. All are equal there, nobody has any basic civil liberties. (Incidentally, people in the West Bank know about mini-rebellions taking the form of small demonstrations in Amman refugee camps).

If there are no rebellions in Amman because the despotic regime there allows no manifestations of dissent, the situation in the State of Israel is to a great extent exactly the opposite. Basic civil liberties and Israel's democracy enable Israel's Arab citizens to fight for their rights without having to resort to violent riots, as is the case in Gaza and Nabulus. They want to and prefer living in Israel, not only because their houses and property are in Shefar'am and Umm al-Fahm, but also because they have adapted to and assimilated Israel's political culture. Even if they have misgivings and reservations about the government and the regime (and who doesn't?), they are not prepared to give up the quality of life accorded by the Israeli regime.

An Israeli Arab academic who was offered a high-income senior position in a university in Jordan told me he could never live there because he would have to think 10 times before telling a joke to a taxi driver. The principles of free elections, supremacy of the law and equality before it, freedom of expression and so on and so forth have become no less central—and perhaps even more—in the lives and psyche of Israel's Arabs than the value of national slogans and symbols.

Notwithstanding all the minuses of the Israeli regime regarding its Arab citizens, no other Arab regime offers such a quality of life. The regime and political culture offered by the PLO cannot yet even begin to compete with those of Israel.

Some of this has also penetrated the psyche of the Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Whether it wanted to or not, the State of Israel has clearly imparted the principles of democracy to the inhabitants of the territories. This has been done not only by Knesset Members Yosi Sarid and Shulamit Aloni, who constantly talk about civil liberties and self-determination, but also by a prime minister such as Menahem Begin who time and again stated that people should live as free human beings. In fact, the message every Israeli has been relaying to the Arabs of the territories is one and the same: Human beings, their freedom and rights, should be treated with respect.

With a little bit of exaggeration and a lot of irony one can say that the messages relayed by the State of Israel sort of pushed the inhabitants of the territories to rebel against the discrimination, neglect, and arbitrariness of the Military Government ruling them. The word "snitch," which is used by almost every Israeli to describe an Arab who helps the Military Government and the Shin Bet, crosses my mind on more than one occasion. Do the Arabs not feel that we Israelis hold the "snitch" in such contempt? Of course they do. Therefore, when they hang a poor devil in Qabatiyah they know that the entire State of Israel, because of its values, cannot help but despise such characters.

Many other examples can be cited: the municipal elections in Judaea and Samaria called by the late Moshe Dayan because in his opinion the Arabs had and were entitled to run their own affairs; the Arab papers in East Jerusalem which are filled to the brim with articles translated from the Israeli press, almost all of them dealing with democracy, human rights, and musings about Israel's forced rule over the Arabs in the territories.

Herein lies the paradox of Israel, which tries hard to maintain its democratic image and at the same time relays messages to the territories that make the local inhabitants take action against the occupying regime. After all, what has Mubarak 'Awwad been doing? He has been preaching for a struggle about rights, a nonviolent struggle similar to those waged with no impediments by thousands of Israelis in professional and social fields. Therefore, one way or another, the uprising is bound to go on in ascending and descending waves. Most probably, in time, the inhabitants of the territories will want to adopt the way of life they see in Israel rather than those they see in any of the neighboring Arab regimes.

Poll on Prime Ministerial, Defense Candidates

TA1705161488 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 May 88 p A9

[Text] The Modi'in Ezrahi research institute, under the management of Dr Rahel Yisra'eli, conducted a public opinion poll in the second half of April 1988 on the popularity of public figures for the main cabinet positions, and on the public's political preferences.

The statistics for the premiership were examined by means of an open question: "Who, in your opinion, is most suitable to be prime minister?" To find out political preferences, the pollers asked: "If Knesset elections were held now, which party would get your vote?"

The person most suitable to serve as prime minister:

	Apr 88	Mar 88	Jan 88
Peres	36.2	35.4	37.7
Shamir	29.5	27.3	17.0
Rabin	4.6	5.0	4.3
Sharon	4.1	6.8	6.2
Kahane	2.1	Unpolled	Unpolled
Arens	1.9	Unpolled	Unpolled
Begin	1.0	Unpolled	Unpolled
Levi	0.9	Unpolled	Unpolled
Other	7.4	12.2	12.0
No candidate	12.3	13.3	22.8
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0

The small difference between the April and March breakdowns can be attributed to predictable sampling deviations which do not necessarily reflect the popularity trends of various public figures. The statistics hint, however, at another slight rise in Shamir's status and at a stability in Peres' popularity. A slight fall in Sharon's popularity is reflected.

To obtain a clearer picture, the popularity of Peres and Shamir among the voters of each party and each political bloc was polled. The findings indicate that Shamir is the right-wing and religious party voters' most popular candidate for the post of prime minister, while Peres is most popular with the left-wing bloc. On the other hand, while the rate of Peres' supporters from the left-wing bloc is as high as 76.2 percent, Shamir is supported by only 56.4 percent of the right-wing parties and by 42.9 percent of religious party voters.

The person most suitable to serve as defense minister:

	Apr 88	Mar 88	Jan 88	Nov 87
Rabin	45.6	42.5	45.6	49.2
Sharon	25.7	25.5	20.2	16.4
Arens	5.7	5.0	4.2	6.9
Refa'el Eytan	3.4	6.7	3.8	1.7
Other	9.9	10.1	8.2	8.6
No candidate	9.7	10.2	18.0	17.2
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Briefs

Air Link With Hungary

Israel and Hungary have agreed to set up a direct air link between Tel Aviv and Budapest, our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports. In a few days, the Israeli and Hungarian Governments will begin technical negotiations on the operation of the air link between El Al and the Hungarian national airlines. The final agreement was achieved during Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres talks in Budapest several days ago. [Text] [*TA1905194688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 May 88*]

New Rocket Launcher

The B-300, a new rocket launcher manufactured by the Israel Military Industries, will replace the RPG launcher now used by the ground forces. The new launcher weighs 4 kg, has an effective firing range, and is easy to use. [Excerpt] [*TA1805125788 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 May p 27*]

AL-RA'Y on U.S. 'Mentality' Before Summit

JN2005102488 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
20 May 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Washington, the Palestine Question, and the Superpower Summit"]

[Text] Ten days before the U.S.-Soviet summit, Washington started casting doubts on whether it will be possible to achieve practical results on the Middle East issue and the Gulf war during this summit. This doubt, which was expressed by the U.S. deputy secretary of state, indicates that Washington does not have a clear inclination to develop its stand in a way that contributes toward reactivating the peace process in the region.

This statement also reassures Israel that the Moscow summit will not result in any decisions that might change the current situation on the issue. Therefore, one can say that Washington wants to suggest anew that it insists on continuing to monopolize all the cards that have to do with the Palestine question and that it does not intend to give up this monopoly even within the framework of the calculations that might be considered in the Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

It is not strange for the U.S. mentality to remain as it is. However, continuing with this mentality does not mean that Washington will remain the master of the situation in the region. It is no secret that the myth of the 99 percent of the cards that Washignton was thought to control has been proved false. It has also become clear more than ever before that the hand that struggles holds the real cards. Here we see the line of struggle rising over the Arab arena and opening the possibility for the Arab hand to regain many of the cards vital to establishing real peace in the region.

It is noteworthy that the six principles, of which Jordan informed Washington, are a confirmation of the stable and independent Arab stand, which is not subject to other people's approval. This is itself is a confirmation of the fact that there is no room for compromise over this pan-Arab stand, and that the Arabs are determined to struggle to secure a just and comprehensive peace.

Washington errs if it imagines that, by its predetermination of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit results, it can weaken the Arab resolve. Despite their appreciation of the importance of the superpower summit and their faith in the continuing positive Soviet stand, the Arabs realize that their struggle will decide the situation in the region and set in place the pillars of real peace in the region, which everyone seeks.

Information Minister on PLO, Arab Politics

JN2105090088 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
21 May 88 pp 6-7

[Interview with Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah by AL-DUSTUR reporters in Amman; date not given]

[Text] AL-DUSTUR: His Majesty King Husayn's auspicious tours in the various governorates during the month of Ramadan left many impressions on the sons of the Jordanian family. What is the result of these tours and the king's speeches, which touched on important issues?

Al-Khasawinah: The king's meetings with the people had clear aims. His speeches had a definite message—namely, that Jordan is part of the greater Arab homeland, that the establishment of the kingdom as a result of the Great Arab Revolt proves its Arab affiliation, which prevented its isolation from the Arab nation's causes and aims despite the Sykes-Picot agreement and the colonialist arrangements which divided the Arab body into many countries.

The Arab struggle has taken a regional color, especially during recent years. Each Arab state is proud of its regional character and has been trying to preserve it; each is passing through periods of resurgence and relaxation, development and retreat. Each Arab country has a desire to preserve regional principles, particularly after the dissolution of the Egyptian-Syrian unity. However, Jordan was an exception. No attempts were made to highlight the Jordanian identity until the emergence of the PLO, which upheld and adhered to the motto that it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

There was a clear insistence on this exclusive representation. No side can speak on behalf of the Palestinian people or in the name of the PLO.

There has also been so much insistence on slogans like the Palestinian independence and independent decision-making that the Arab meetings in which Jordan and the PLO participated became a burdensome business because of the heated discussion on the exclusive Palestinian representation. It was as if there was a permanent competition between the PLO and Jordan on who will represent the Palestinian people. This created hard feelings which we are better off without.

By affirming the unity of the Arab cause and welcoming the joint delegation, Jordan did not intend to dispute with the PLO over this representation or impose on the Palestinian people a Jordanian trusteeship and include them by force into the Jordanian entity. There was a legal, jusifiable, and legitimate international reason for this; namely, that part of the Palestinian territory, the West Bank, is part of the Jordanian state. This means a great deal to the international community, which passed resolutions concerning the Israeli occupation—resolutions that were addressed to Jordan in its capacity as the party responsible for the West Bank.

Jordan has repeatedly attempted to explain the viewpoint that the liberation of territories is the first priority and that relations between any two Arab peoples are now

in abeyance and should be faced by all the Arab countries, be they relations of unity, confederation, or complete independence; or relations of a country that seeks union with Syria instead of Jordan or Iraq.

This issue became very boring as a result of the heated discussions between Jordan and the PLO. In every Arab summit, Arab foreign ministers conference, and in all meetings of the Arab group in New York and other places, the issue became the topic of the hour, permeating all discussions. Any objection would be interpreted by the notion that Jordan was encroaching on the independent Palestinian decisionmaking and Palestinian rights by posing as representative. The PLO's exclusive representation of the Palestinian people has been regarded as a national achievement—an urgent, necessary demand.

In his speeches, His Majesty King Husayn dealt with this subject. He stressed that Jordan does not want, in any way, to annex any part of the Palestinian territories to the Jordanian state against the will of its inhabitants. Jordan has no ambitions for such an annexation. The king also stressed that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative and that Jordan will not negotiate on behalf of the PLO and will not represent the Palestinians. On the basis of this, Jordan insisted that the invitation—as regards Shultz' initiative—should be directed to the parties involved so that the PLO will be included, and so that the Jordanian decison will not appear inapplicable or last minute.

In his speeches, His Majesty King Husayn made it clear that if the international conference were to convene with signs of success, there would be no objection to a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to this conference. It should be clear, however, that there are two delegations—Palestinian and Jordanian—that deal with both the Palestinian and Jordanian dimensions of the Palestinian question. This is of particular importance, especially when we recall the past period and its endless verbal conflict. Then it seemed as if the liberation of the occupied Arab territories was dependent on Jordan's declaring that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In fact, these slogans had been raised by our brothers in the PLO. It was Jordan, and no other Arab party, that was meant by those slogans. The special nature of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is well known. Since the unity of the two banks of the River Jordan, an objective reality has been met. The people of Jordan and the people of the West Bank have merged. It is true that this unity did not cover all the Palestinians, but it produced a well-known objective reality and a model unity.

This is one aspect. The other aspect is that the Arab-Israeli conflict will not be decided as a result of this or that decision. A settlement of the Middle East issue will not be achieved as a result of this decision or adherence to the aforementioned trend because of Israel's adamance and insistence on holding the occupied Arab territories, the West Bank and Gaza; its denial of Palestinian rights; and its presentation of the most extreme colonialist theories, including the idea of expelling the Palestinians from their soil.

Hence came King Husayn's trend, in which he stressed the importance of maintaining this Jordanian state and society. This society comprises citizens of East Bank origin, Jordanians from the West Bank, and citizens who originally came from the Palestinian Arab territories occupied in 1948 and who grew up in this entity.

But we are all equals in a state with a constituion and a law. This emphasizes the unity of citizens and their maintenance of the stability and prosperity of Jordanian society. By security we do not mean police power. We mean prosperity and Ibn Khaldun's theory that no economic or social progress can be made while the homeland is overwhelmed by ideological divisions, blurring of vision and goal, mutual suspicion, and inflexibility. Security means maintaining the general national spirit, preserving Jordan and supporting its 120,000-strong Army and its popular army. This army's goal is to protect the aim of this Jordanian state, which is part of the Arab homeland. The main goal is to protect Jordanian soil against any Israeli aggression and support every Arab struggle if peaceful efforts fail. The Zionist challenge is directed against everybody. This demand is not contradictory to the insistence on maintaining Jordan and its national prosperity that covers all citizens, who are equal before the law and Constitution regardless of their religion, sex, race, or place of birth.

AL-DUSTUR: What is Jordan's role in support of the Palestinian people?

Al-Khasawinah: Our support for the Palestinian people is just like our support for all our Arab nation's issues. Jordan stands with all its strength in support of Iraq's battle and its determination to implement Resolution No 598. This is a defense of the homeland. It is like standing beside your sick brother in ups and downs. The Palestine question is a major issue. If we are Arabs and give countries that are far away from the conflict, such as the Arab Maghreb and the Arabian Gulf states, the right to be concerned about the Palestinian issue, we also should care. As [PNC Speaker] Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih said: "Geography links Jordan and Palestine. Families in Jordan and Palestine are interlinked and the one family is widely dispersed as a result of the Zionist invasions. This means there is a special relationship between Jordan and Palestine."

The subject of Gaza's Palestinians is different from the subject of Lebanon's Palestinians as well as from the situation of the Palestinians who obtained the Jordanian citizenship. They are also different from the Palestinians in the diaspora and in the Arabian Gulf. However, all this does not change the central fact that Israel is

occupying Palestinian and Arab territories. The PLO emerged as a prominent objective fact, which is determined to represent the Palestinian people and their demands. The PLO has its own charter and national council. It also enjoys the recognition of the Arab countries. The PLO is determined to represent the Palestinian issue alone, without Jordan. We believe that this will help to establish a sound relationship between Jordan and the Palestinian people despite Jordan's convictions on the pecularities of this relationship. His Majesty King Husayn announced that Jordan will not intervene in the issue and that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Such a statement does not contradict the fact that the Jordanian is not less than his Palestinian brother in terms of his devotion to the Palestinian issue and his determination to liberate Palestine. This is comparable to the Jordanian's feelings toward the Iraqis' pains and his concern for the liberation of Al-Faw, and to the Arab nation's support for Syria and Egypt during the October War. The difference in opinions between the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations with regard to sole representation, independence, and equal footing has created an unacceptable situation. Jordan hopes that all Arabs will return to common issues. Hence emerges the opportunity for the intellectuals and journalists to create a sound situation inside the Arab entity focusing on principles. These principles are: We are one nation and our issues are the same.

AL-DUSTUR: Why did His Majesty King Husayn announce this decision at this particular time?

Al-Khasawinah: This stand has been adopted since the Rabat summit. It was agreed that the PLO will be the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Jordan expressed its interest in the issue. Jordan also told its brothers that we want this political representation. This stand continued after 1974. When the idea of the international conference arose and when Shultz came to the region to abort the uprising, slogans were raised calling on Jordan not to have any relationship with the Palestinian representation.

Some people explained Jordan's assistance to the West Bank by saying that Jordan wants to create forces and supporters on the West Bank. This is contrary to the reality. His Majesty King Husayn said that we are with the uprising. It is Jordan that called the uprising a "revolution." This revolution has shown the Arab individual's capability and depth despite the darkest state of despair. Jordan reiterated that it will not represent the Palestinian people or the PLO in any political solution unless the PLO and the Arab parties issue a call to the contrary.

The current Arab situation does not inspire great hope. Egypt has its own problems and Iraq is preoccupied by the war. Despite the state of despair, the Palestinian people rose up and Jordan embarked fully on its role toward the uprising just like any other country. The uprising is a source of Arab joy and pain. When Jordan said at the beginning of the uprising that it is a spontaneous, collective, and popular act not inspired by anyone, it meant that the uprising is a collective, Palestinian reaction to the occupation. This reaction is not motivated by any organization, state, or external side.

AL-DUSTUR: Jordan is the target of fierce enemy campaigns. The note of the "alternative homeland" is being played again and rumors are spreading to split the one Jordanian family. How can this onslaught be faced on the official and popular levels?

Al-Khasawinah: There is a well-known view about Israel's game plan, that it has ambitions to establish a state from the Nile to the Euphrates, and that it regards the East Bank of Jordan as part of Israel's land. This is manifested in some obvious Likud programs. The Likud includes Sharon, who is now the agriculture minister and who was the defense minister. Begin denies the Palestinians any land. They call the West Bank Judaea and Samaria and claim that it is a liberated territory. They claim that the Palestinians' homeland lies east of the Jordan, that they have no homeland on Palestinian soil.

The United States has no policy independent of Israeli policy. There is a policy in support of Israel, and the latter rejects peace efforts including the U.S. initiatives. No U.S. official can denounce Israel. And while the U.S. allies denounce Israeli policy in the occupied territory, the United States refuses to denounce Israel for fear of the Zionist lobby and because Israel controls U.S. politics.

We must realize this fact and we should not bury our heads in the sand.

Applying pressure means that a major foreign power comes to Jordan and says: You should do this, or you should do that. This is out of the question. Jordan will never allow anyone, no matter how powerful, to exercise pressure on it in terms of our pan-Arab causes.

However, there are other means of pressure, such as the inability of the U.S. Administration to pressure Israel, the open U.S. bias in Israel's favor and its failure to promote the constructive role that Jordan, the PLO, and other Arab states played during the Amman summit and that was aimed at a peaceful solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict based on withdrawal and living in peace.

There is another type of pressure such as what we hear from certain circles connected with foreign decisionmaking bodies. We should be alert to this type of pressure. There is danger in casting doubt about Jordan's stability and its progress. Jordan has thousands of engineers, doctors, and intellectuals. There are infrastructures and superstructures in all fields. Healthy conditions are manifested in an open society with a public opinion showing elements of a modern state.

We hear notions that the Palestinians form 50 or 60 percent of the Jordanian population, that the Palestinians would not accept being Jordanian. These statistics were attributed to foreign reporters. And because of our backwardness complex, we are deceived by such reporters who do not care about the Palestinians or the Palestinian cause.

For example, when Iran occupied Al-Faw, a magazine said that Iraq was about to collapse. And when Iraq regained Al-Faw, the same magazine said that regaining Al-Faw was not important. We must be careful with this harmful talk and its tendentious, dubious aim.

AL-DUSTUR: But do we hear of such a discrimination between a Jordanian and a Palestinian?

Al-Khasawinah: Most countries have gone through such an experience, for example Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria. This is one of the methods of the colonialists, who distinguish between people according to their cities. For example, we find city people and rural people. This, however, has been exposed to the people. We will not be embroiled in such bewilderments. Most of the Arab countries have suffered such religious and geographical divisions. We hear such talk in the streets. How can we treat these shortcomings to which some intellectuals refer as secondary contradictions, similar to those that occur in one family? We must not be characterized by such qualities. We must deal with them by enjoying a lofty national spirit that keeps them in their true proportion and presents them as negative phenomena that ought to be resisted. This can be attained through deepening the sense of equality before the law and through reinforcing the rule of law. I do not mean the literal sense of the law, but also the spirit of the law; that is, the refinement of the citizens and the strengthening of their cohesion.

AL-DUSTUR: When you talked about U.S. policy, you said that there is no U.S. policy separate from Israeli policy. Do you expect a U.S. leader to order Israel to withdraw as President Eisenhower did in 1956 when he ordered Israel to withdraw from Gaza?

Al-Khasawinah: As regards the Middle East, there is no U.S. policy that is separate from Israeli policy. There are some international issues over which we do not disagree with the United States. But as regards the Middle East conflict, there is unity between the policies of Israel and the United States.

We do not close doors to hope. The American people have some factors that call for us to work with and promote when placed in their correct framework. The U.S. scene is the most eligible for our ideas and awareness because U.S. society is open and our cause is just. Our cause, thus, can reach the conscience of the U.S. people.

AL-DUSTUR: How do you assess President Saddam Husayn's recent visit to Jordan?

Al-Khasawinah: The visit embodied all meanings of appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn and for Jordan. It was a pleasant surprise for us, especially since Iraq has regained Al-Faw. The visit was a source of profound happiness and implied the honoring of Jordan's stand and its pan-Arab inclination by a genuine Arab leader.

AL-DUSTUR: There is an Algerian call for convening an Arab summit. King Husayn has received an official invitation to the summit conveyed by the Algerian foreign minister. What is our stand vis-a-vis the awaited summit. Will discussions be limited only to the uprising?

Al-Khasawinah: In principle, Jordan supports any summit. The remarks that Jordan has made were aimed at maintaining the standard of this summit, which is the hope of the Arab nation. We do not have any conditions, but our remarks were aimed at achieving success for the conference. Jordan will attend the summit.

AL-DUSTUR: Where does the Arab hope lie? Does it lie in this summit?

Al-Khasawinah: The summit is one of the hopes. Elements of vitality in our Arab nation and in the Arabs lie in their history, their steadfastness despite hundreds of years of persecution, and the availability of the elements of strength. The time factor is, therefore, important. This nation must find hope. The steadfastness of Iraq and the uprising, which invented simple means, have penetrated the consciousness of the world. Isn't this a new hope?

AL-DUSTUR: After Jordan has welcomed the Al-Asad-'Arafat meeting and Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation, what is Jordan's stand on this rapprochement and when will 'Arafat come to Amman?

Al-Khasawinah: Some hostile press and other circles imagine that 'Arafat's visit to Syria should be against Jordan. And we ask: Why? We welcomed the Syrian-Palestinian meeting out of our belief that the Syrian-Palestinian front is a force for Arab struggle.

'Arafat's visit to Amman is close, as the brothers in the PLO said.

AL-DUSTUR: It has been said that Shultz' coming tour will face hard-line stands. What is your comment?

Al-Khasawinah: It is difficult to comment on this. The six principles are our firm principles with regard to the U.S. initiative from the beginning until the end. The Israeli party is intransigent because it considers the occupied Arab territory liberated territory.

AL-DUSTUR: What about Egypt's participation in the coming summit meeting in Algeria?

Al-Khasawinah: His Majesty King Husayn announced that the summit institution is independent from the Arab League institution. Egypt's stand strengthens the Arab summit, particularly after the majority of Arab states restored relations with Cairo.

AL-DUSTUR: Armed disputes erupted in Lebanon between Amal and Hizballah. What is the effect of these differences on Lebanon's future and the Syrian role in the Lebanese arena?

Al-Khasawinah: We hope that Lebanon will recover. A big catastrophe occurs in a country where law and discipline are undermined. The alternative to law and discipline will become kidnapping, chaos, the sovereignty of the militias, the fragmentation of the Army into armies and homelands, divisions, and association with foreigners. We bless all efforts to straighten out matters and support such endeavors.

AL-DUSTUR: After the prime minister's visit to SAWT AL-SHA'B, what is the next step?

Al-Khasawinah: The studies will be completed soon so that that newspaper will be given the oportunity to express its position as a newspaper with AL-DUSTUR and AL-RA'Y. All requirements of the success will be made available. There is a plan to support SAWT AL-SHA'B, and the results will appear soon.

AL-DUSTUR: We want to be reassured about the stability of the Jordanian dinar.

Al-Khasawinah: We should notice that during the past 3 years, most of the Arab countries witnessed a period of retreat because of the surplus of oil in the world market; the drop in the rate of the dollar; the war economy imposed on fraternal Iraq and its repercussions on the economy in Jordan, Egypt, and Syria; the rate of the Iraqi dinar; and the reduction in the Arab assistance. Despite this, our dinar maintained its level and it will continue like this.

The process of adjustment to the new situation is of great concern for the government and the private sector together. All factors which call for hope, for the dinar to maintain its stability, for our economy to be encouraged through the increase in exports, and for general expenditure to be controlled, are being studied. All factors of success are being followed up thoroughly by all competent functionaries.

AL-DUSTUR: What alternative measures will Jordan take to compensate for the reduction of Arab assistance?

Al-Khasawinah: I do not divulge a secret if I say that part of the assistance does not reach us and the accumulation of this part is creating an ever increasing deficit in our budget. However, our trust in our Arab nation is not determined by 10 years of assistance. An Arab's ties with his brothers cannot be judged by a few years. We have confidence in ourselves and our resources. Most of our budget is spent on building a strong army to protect Jordan.

AL-DUSTUR: The issue of unemployment is attracting public interest. It worries the people. What is your opinion?

Al-Khasawinah: This is a big national issue which should be discussed. Regrettably, even our press does not give it its due importance. Everybody is called on to contribute to solving this problem. The government alone will not solve it because it has no magic wand for this case. Everyone in Jordan is called on to participate in a solution. There are attempts to create job opportunities in Yemen, Morocco, the Gulf, and in Jordan itself.

AL-DUSTUR: The remittances of Jordanians working abroad have dropped. Experts think this is very significant and serious. What are the alternatives?

Al-Khasawinah: I have no data on the size of the recent remittances. What is important are the factors of strength in our economy. Our dinar is still as we know it, strong. There is no problem concerning the remittances of our expatriates. God be praised, Jordan has enough guarantees to stabilize the value of the dinar and preserve its exchange rate.

AL-DUSTUR: Is there any decision to further stabilize the value of the dinar?

Al-Khasawinah: Certainly. Continuous meetings are being held with the participation of the private sector groups who assist the government in devising solutions to keep the dinar stable and strong. God willing, the dinar has been and will continue to be strong. It will remain the symbol of strength of our economy and our country.

AL-DUSTUR: Eight months ago, Jordan announced the restoration of ties with Libya. Yet, their ambassador has not come to Jordan and our ambassador has not gone to Libya. How do you explain this?

Al-Khasawinah: Jordan's quiet nature compels it to consider issues calmly and quietly. This issue is within our policy, which is based on pan-Arab commitment and which considers issues rationally and patiently.

AL-DUSTUR: We have not been familiar with a behavior such as that of U.S. spokesman Charles Redman, who went out of his way to level criticism concerning two U.S. journalists accredited abroad. How do you explain Redman's statement on the U.S. journalist Rick Davis, the NBC correspondent in Jordan?

Al-Khasawinah: Jordan has always been open to world media and has never closed the door to any media organization. Jordan will continue to be so. However, some reporters, such as Mr Davis, harmed Jordan and depicted abroad a twisted image about the internal conditions in Jordan.

We tackled this issue wisely. We cannot tolerate lies and insults to our national sentiments from anyone. We distinguish between friendly and unfriendly sides. Jordan's doors will continue to be open for all foreign journalists. We welcome them to learn about the situation and to report the truth. They are familiar with this country's attitude.

Algeria Asked To Invite Egypt to Arab Summit
JN2405080888 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 May 88 p 1

[By Rabab Mango]

[Text] Amman—Jordan has officially asked Algeria to extend an invitation to Egypt to attend the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Algiers June 7, a well-informed Jordanian source said Monday.

The request was based on the principle that participation in Arab summits is a separate matter from membership in the Arab League, the source told the Jordan Times and AL-RA'Y.

The source did not rule out restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Algeria either before or after the summit.

"What impedes the resumption of relations between the two countries are formalities," the source said.

Egyptian sources in Amman declined to comment on Egypt's participation in the summit but reiterated that Egypt was always keen on Arab solidarity.

Reports in the Egyptian press have indicated that resumption of Algerian-Egyptian diplomatic relations could be announced after a meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. Both leaders will be attending a summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in the Ethiopian capital.

Embassy Denies Statement on Hostage Release

NC2305183188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] The Iranian Embassy in Beirut has denied a report that has appeared in certain media citing Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, Iranian deputy foreign minister, as stating that the foreign hostages will be released before the Syrian Arab forces enter the southern suburb. The Iranian Embassy declared that the report is totally untrue, and said that Sheykh ol-Eslam has not made any statements to any news agencies and has not given any press interviews.

Islamic Jihad Demands 'Direct Negotiations'

NC2405065388 Paris AFP in English 0642 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Ba'labakk, Lebanon, May 24 (AFP)—An underground organization identifying itself as Islamic Jihad threatened Tuesday to kill all the foreign hostages in Lebanon unless their governments begin direct negotiations with the abductors.

The typewritten Arabic communique, delivered to an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent in this city 83 kilometers (52) miles northeast of Beirut, was not authenticated by a photo of a hostage, unlike most Islamic Jihad statements.

"The Islamic Jihad advises the countries concerned by the matter of the hostages to rapidly engage in direct negotiations to safeguard their lives," the communique said.

"Pressures and clear plans carried out in the field against the Islamic movement will lead to the liquidation of all the hostages and will leave their bodies inert."

At least 15 foreigners, including nine Americans, two Britons, an Irishman, a West German, an Italian and an Indian are believed held hostage by Islamic Jihad and other pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon, most of them in Beirut's southern suburbs.

The densely-populated Shi'ite Moslem suburbs have been the scene of fierce clashes since May 6 between militiamen from the pro-Iranian Hizballah and the Syrian-backed Amal Movement.

'Large' Israeli Troop Contingent Moves North

NC2405135388 Paris AFP in English 1319 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon (AFP)—A large contingent of Israeli troops, backed by 20 tanks and artillery pieces, moved into the central sector of Israel's "security zone" in southern Lebanon early Tuesday, security sources said.

They said the troops linked up with units already stationed in the area, near Marj 'Uyun, 98 kilometers (60 miles) southeast of Beirut, and took up positions on a hill overlooking Al-Nabatiyah, lying north of the security zone.

Some 3,000 Israeli soldiers earlier this month launched a major operation north of the zone, culminating in the destruction of the village of Maydun, a pro-Iranian Shi'ite fundamentalist stronghold 94 kilometers (58 miles) southeast of Beirut.

Israeli authorities described the maneuver as an effort to persuade inhabitants of southern Lebanon to refrain from supporting "terrorists" attempting to infiltrate into northern Israel.

The security zone runs 12 to 20 kilometers (eight to 12 miles) into southern Lebanon.

In another development, the Israeli Army expelled senior Sunni Moslem leaders from the village of Shab'a, located within the zone, for having refused to cooperate with Israeli authorities, police said.

Correspondents in the area said the two mayors of the village, along with 13 other figures, including school teachers, were escorted to a point outside the village linking the security zone to the rest of the country.

The men said they had been summoned Tuesday morning to a meeting called by the Israeli-trained and financed South Lebanon Army, where they reiterated the refusal of the village to cooperate with the civilian administration established by Israel in the security zone.

New Group Threatens Iranian Institutions

NC2405054688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] A group calling itself the Islamic Action Organization [Munazzamat al-'Amal al-Islami] has conveyed a statement to a foreign news agency in Beirut declaring that it will attack Iranian institutions in Lebanon if Iranian interference in Lebanon's affairs does not cease.

The organization threatened to hold hostage all those working in Iranian institutions on Lebanese territory and to attack all those who are connected with the Iranian Embassy.

Addressing the Amal Movement without naming it, the organization said: We have decided to act now that the party responsible for security in the suburb has been defeated vis-a-vis the Iranian occupation, which has turned Lebanon into a jungle in which those holding the hostages are living.

Fighting Between Amal, Hizballah Continues

Shelling in Suburb

NC2305181588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Intermittent artillery shelling is continuing in the southern suburb. According to Amal sources, 400 shells fell on Al-Shiyah, Al-Ghubayrah, and Al-Tayyunah this afternoon. Five persons were killed this afternoon. Amal said that three died in the shelling and two Hizballah members were killed when Hizballah came under attack near the Al-'Awwad mosque.

A Hizballah source has reported that two persons were killed in the shelling of the Bi'r al-'Abd area. The source said that an Amal group dressed in civilian clothes infiltrated in the direction of the Al-'Awwad mosque from Al-Ghubayrah at 1400 today and attacked a Hizballah position, killing two Hizballah members and wounding three others.

The source said that 16 vehicles have been seen transporting Amal gunmen from the South to Al-Ghubayrah. The source accused Amal of violating the cease-fire that was supposed to come into effect at 1720. According to the same source, Iranian diplomat Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam called Minister Nabih Birri's office, asking to talk to him about controlling the security situation. He was told that Birri was not available. He then asked to speak to Ayyub Humayyid, but received the same answer.

Hizballah regards Al-Shiyah as having fallen militarily, but it will not enter the area for fear of coming into direct confrontation with the Syrians.

Meanwhile, an Amal security source indicated this evening that Al-Shiyah, Al-Ghubayrah, and Al-Tayyunah had come under a concentrated artillery bombardment. The source said that over 400 82-mm and 120-mm shells, fired from Hizballah emplacements in Bi'r al-'Abd, Hayy Mu'awwad, Hayy Madi, and Sfayr, had fallen in the area. The source added that a child called Mustafa Khalil had been killed and 10 others wounded in the shelling. He accused Hizballah gunmen of trying to expand. He said these attempts, however, had been foiled. The source warned that Amal would be compelled to shoot back in order to silence the fire that is pouring from these emplacements on innocent and unarmed people. It is no longer useful to refrain from returning fire, he added.

'No Progress' in Discussions

NC2305200088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Political sources in the southern suburb have emphasized that the negotiations between Tehran and Damascus and the Syrian-Iranian discussions taking place separately in Damascus and Beirut are still marking time and that no progress has been made. The sources added that Iran, which supports Hizballah, is still advising Syria not to enter the suburb because not all of the suburb's inhabitants want it to do so. Consequently, Syria objects to Iranian Revolutionary Guards participating alongside Syrian forces in joint security duties.

The same sources said that such participation is not being discussed at the level of the quadripartite committee, as happened recently, because Syria fears that this might become a precedent with regard to some other area in Lebanon. The sources emphasized that in light of this no time can be fixed for Syrian military entry into the suburb.

According to the AKHBAR LUBNAN NEWS AGENCY, Hizballah sources have ruled out an early entry into the suburb because Moscow and Washington have asked Damascus to delay its entry.

A responsible Hizballah source has stated that the problem in the southern suburb is not a security one and will not be resolved by expanding or implementing the security plan. The problem, the source said, is the result of an onslaught launched by the Amal Movement, first in the South and now in the suburb, to wipe us out. If a solution remains confined to the suburb, it will be deficient unless it also involves the South.

While no progress has been made in Syrian-Iranian negotiations, the Voice of Lebanon has information to the effect that the Syrian command has given instructions to a regiment of special forces stationed in northern Al-Biqa' to be ready to undertake a possible security task. According to this information, this task is to close in on Hizballah's Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks in Ba'labakk and other Hizballah positions in the area. The purpose of this is to render the Hizballah barracks and other positions incapable of acting or reacting in such a way as to affect the entry into the suburb when the time comes.

According to the information, a Syrian military source in Al-Biqa' has said that the operation of cutting Hizballah down to size would not take more than a few hours. In view of the expected Syrian measures, Hizballah, together with the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and 'Arafat's Fatah, have established a combined operations room in Burj al-Barajinah to coordinate military operations against any Syrian entry into the suburb. Coordination is being undertaken by Sultan Abu al-'Aynayn and 'Ali Dib, alias Khudur Salamah, on behalf of Hizballah. It has been learned in this connection that Islamic groups have arrived in the suburb and have joined Hizballah's fighters.

'Violent Clashes' Continue

NC2405053088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 24 May 88

[Excerpt] Violent clashes continue between Amal and Hizballah militias along the combat lines of Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah, entailing the use of various weapons. Exchanges of artillery fire can be heard clearly in various parts of the capital.

The Amal Movement has said that it checked a Hizballah attack in Al-Ghubayrah at 0300 today, accusing the party of shelling Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah with 120-mm mortars from its positions in Bi'r al-'Abd, Harat Hurayk, and Hayy Madi. A source in the Movement has accused Hizballah of escalating the situation and violating three cease-fire agreements reached yesterday evening through the quadripartite committee and with the participation of the Islamic Republic's representative, Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam.

The same source adds that the Hizballah representative's continuous evasion of his commitments and the party's policy of procrastination have always impeded the implementation of the agreements. He said that Hizballah has been escalating the situation since 0300 today, launching a series of attacks in an attempt to advance and take new positions. Despite intensive contacts to stop the shelling and the clashes, the source adds, the party continues to launch attacks, under the very noses of the quadripartite committee and the Islamic Republic's Embassy.

Meanwhile, Hizballah has stated that it checked an advance attempt by the Amal Movement along the aforementioned axes, accusing the Movement of shelling internal areas of the suburb from its positions in Al-Shiyah and Bi'r Hasan.

A number of casualties have been reported among the ranks of both sides. [passage omitted]

Artillery Duels Ongoing

NC2405092288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] The artillery duels between the Amal Movement and Hizballah have resumed, with shells falling in the areas of Bi'r al-'Abd in the southern suburb, Ard Jallul, and the Sports City. Hizballah is reported to have advanced on the Al-Ghubayrah and Al-Shiyah axes, and the violent clashes in these two areas are continuing. The bombardment of Hayy al-Hindi in the Qasqas area has left one dead and seven others wounded, as well as grave property damage. The wounded have been taken to Al-Maqasid Hospital.

Meanwhile, clashes between 'Arafat supporters and Palestinian dissidents, involving the use of machineguns and rockets, erupted again in the Shatila camp this morning.

Both Claim Gains in Fighting

NC2405103488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] The Amal Movement has announced that its fighters have taken control of the Hizballah post in Al-Ghubayrah and Masjid 'Awwad Street and its lanes, capturing arms and ammunition. Four Hizballah men were killed and five others wounded in the attack, according to the Movement.

Hizballah, however, has declared that at dawn today its men stormed the Amal Movement's security office in Rawdat al-Shahidayn and another office of the Movement behind the Salim gasoline station in Al-Ghubayrah. They assert that the party has gained control of the area separating Al-Ghubayrah and the Shatila and Al-Shiyah traffic circle. Hizballah has also stated that today's contacts resulted in a cease-fire to be observed as of 1000 today, noting that its fighters will comply with this agreement.

Hizballah acknowledged that two of its men have been killed and three others wounded. In addition, 2 children, 'Abbas Surur and Jihad Samahah, were killed and 10 civilians wounded in the areas of Hayy Madi, Bi'r al-'Abd, and Al-Ruways as a result of artillery shelling there. Meanwhile, violent clashes between the two warring parties continue. Artillery bombardment has been reported, with shells reaching Al-Shiyah, Al-Ghubayrah, the Qasqas road, and the Shatila, Al-Tayyunah, and Bi'r al-'Abd traffic circle.

As for the Palestinian camps, tension prevails in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps after this morning's clashes between Fatah gunmen and dissidents.

[(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon at 1000 GMT 24 May adds: "A security source has declared that Hizballah elements managed during today's battles to dominate the Al-Ghubayrah area up to Rawdat al-Shahidayn. The source adds that the Hizballah fighters have gained control of three buildings in the area overlooking Amal's supply routes into Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah."]

Hizballah Allegedly Bought Amal Positions

JN2305140288 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 21 May 88 p 1

[Text] A high-powered Lebanese security source told AL-ITTIHAD that Hizballah paid an estimated $5 million to a number of Amal leaders for evacuating their positions and neighborhoods and handing them over to Hizballah without fighting during the battles for the southern suburb of Beirut, which flared on 6 May 1988.

LE MONDE Interviews General Ghazi Kan'an

LD2405091488 Paris LE MONDE in French 21 May 88 p 4

[Interview with General Ghazi Kan'an, commander of the forces in Lebanon, by Francoise Chipaux in Beirut—date not given]

[Text] Beirut—"Either the door to the suburb is opened to us or we will break it down." General Ghazi Kan'an, head of the Syrian military intelligence services in Lebanon and Damascus' "spokesman," was very calm, smiling, and relaxed, but determined and firm. In the seafront apartment which he has occupied since the Syrian forces entered West Beirut in February 1987, Gen Kan'an said: "The Syrian Army's entry into the southern suburb is inevitable. For the time being, we are simply giving the negotiators time to reach a political agreement, which would be the best solution to our entry." However, for how long will negotiation prevail over a military solution? "There is no deadline," Gen Kan'an replied. "We will decide what is the most appropriate time." "But," he added, "the door will open, because it is in the interests of all sides."

In these circumstances, why did he announce the decision to send in the Syrian troops last Sunday, at the risk of making Damascus now seem at best hesitant and at worst trapped by the Iranians? The Syrian official was very clear on this point. "Before making this decision, we tried to stop the bloodshed by peaceful means. We made efforts with all Shi'ite leaders. However, we saw that the clashes were continuing, that there was no longer a political solution because they had all failed. We then condemned the side that had started and which was still raising the stakes (Hizballah—LE MONDE editor's note). And we announced our decision in order to shock the warring sides and gain control over the situation."

Intoxicated by its rapid victory, Hizballah, which then had control over virtually all the suburb, was ready, according to a very reliable source, to pursue its offensive against Amal's last stronghold in the Shiyah region. But, contrary to their action elsewhere, the Amal militia would have fought hard to defend themselves, which would have led to a real massacre and to Amal's complete collapse.

In addition, from a political viewpoint, Hizballah wanted to trade its victory in the suburb for a return to southern Lebanon. However, Amal does not intend to share power in this region, over which it regained control in April after violent clashes with Hizballah. According to Gen Kan'an, the events in the south have more to do with the "will of the people" who supported Amal's action, than with a strictly military operation. Hizballah's possible return to the south depends on its ability to restore social ties with the population, the Syrian official thinks.

However, why has Syria not implemented its decision? "Iran," Gen Kan'an said, "asked us to resume political dialogue with all parties. And the fact that we announced our decision was a factor in bringing about the resumption of political negotiations." The general sees proof of this in the fact that, aside from the Shiyah region where firing is still heard almost every day, a cease-fire has been more or less established by a committee comprising the enemy brothers of Hizballah and Amal with Syria and Iran. "We explained to everybody," the Syrian official said, "that a security force was necessary to guarantee to the inhabitants who have fled the suburb that hostilities are not going to be resumed. So long as there are troubled regions and hotbeds of tension, there is no way of guaranteeing security without a force which can guarantee it. All sides are asking Syria to intervene."

Is the hostage affair delaying Syrian action? "No," the Syrian general replied immediately. "What interests us is ending the conflict. We want there to be no hostages in the suburb or elsewhere when we enter it." Does this mean that they will be released first? Gen Kan'an was anxious to stress that this affair is not part of his mission here. "We simply want the humanitarian aspect of our entry into the suburb to end this tragedy for all. I am also sure that our presence will enable the people in the suburb to have an open mind toward each other and toward the outside world."

So what is preventing the Syrian troops from entering? After the establishment of a virtual cease-fire, "we are following the points laid down in the 11 May agreement, notably the withdrawal of the armed militia."

[Chipaux] Where will they go?

[Kan'an] The children of the suburb will remain there, be they members of Amal or Hizballah.

[Chipaux] What about the Iranian Revolution Guards?

[Kan'an] I am not really thinking about foreigners. Wherever we are, we will be a stabiliziing factor. The solution (to the Iranian presence—LE MONDE editor's note) will be found when there is a national solution. We are not a substitute for the Lebanese national government.

[Chipaux] But why did Syria allow the Revolution Guards to enter the country?

[Kan'an] They came to Lebanon to play a complementary role in the struggle against Israel. The Shi'ites have emotional and spiritual affinities with Iran. It is our Lebanese brothers who will solve these problems.

Is Iran not creating some problems for its Syrian ally? On this point, Gen Kan'an does not intend to enter into controversy. "The day when there is a balanced national agreement, it will not be in the Iranians' interest to oppose it and they will not do so."

Repercussions on the "Christian Area"

With regard to Hizballah, Gen Kan'an was particularly conciliatory: "Hizballah," he explained, "opened hostilities out of a fear of suffering the same fate as in southern Lebanon and being hounded out of the suburb by Amal. In fact, it wants a complementary role and accepts Amal's political presence in the southern suburb. Guarantees have been given, and there is room for all those who want to engage in politics. Hizballah is a phenomenon produced by the Jihad and it has taken up the struggle against Israel, especially in the south. It is the Israeli occupation which has created Hizballah. I must say in all honesty that Hizballah has never been an obstacle to a balanced national solution in Lebanon."

Does the entry of Syrian troops into Beirut's southern suburb herald upheavals in the "Christian area," because the Syrian officials have always countered Western demands for Hizballah to be "disciplined" with the existence of "Christian fundamentalists," in other words the Lebanese Forces? "To the extent that our entry into the southern suburb will be a stabilizing factor, it can help to end the country's division and fragmentation," Gen Kan'an said.

To avoid seeming to give any backing to Beirut's division into two sectors—Christian and Muslim—Gen Kan'an said that the Syrian army will not take up positions on the demarcation line where the largely Shi'ite 6th Brigade of the Lebanese Army will be posted.

Gen Kan'an maintains that Amal, despite its defeats, must continue to be the Shi'ite community's main mouthpiece.

While waiting to take action, Gen Kan'an is stepping up his contacts in Beirut, to ensure, at minimum political and human cost, the Syrian army's entry into the suburb, which is being demanded with increasing urgency by all officials in West Beirut.

Calls for Egypt's Return Termed 'Paradox'

JN2305153388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: There have recently been many articles and appeals publicized in more than one Arab capital discussing the necessity for the Egyptian regime to participate in the Algeria summit, which is being held specifically to support the revolution of the Palestinian Arab people and their courageous uprising. Reports have cited efforts being exerted to postpone the Arab summit to provide the opportunity for more consultations on the Egyptian regime's participation. These reports give numerous impressions, one of which is that Arabs attach more importance to the Egyptian regime's participation in the summit than the essential, crucial topic of supporting the uprising and crystallizing a state of Arab awakening in a working plan covering all questions. The Arabs strongly believe this in order to confront the U.S. and Israeli schemes and topple every solution which does not ensure withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands and recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights on their soil, including their right to self-determination.

Some of those who are trying to beautify the Camp David regime in Egypt may have their own specific or general reasons for what they aim to achieve. We are not going to dwell on those reasons but will spend time on other points which deserve a calm discussion. It should be pointed out that the Arab countries froze their relations with the Egyptian regime and imposed a boycott after it signed the Camp David agreement. What happened after that, requiring a review of the resolutions of the Baghdad summit and the following Arab summits which condemned the Egyptian regime and imposed an Arab boycott on it, directed specifically against Camp David and not against the Egyptian people? Has the Egyptian regime freed itself from the Camp David bonds and relations with the Israeli enemy for us to say that it is high time to review the resolutions of the Arab summits? The answer to this question is crystal clear.

Any person following the news will notice that the Egyptian regime insists on adhering to Camp David and its political, military, economic, and educational ideas. He can see that the Egyptian regime has developed its strategic relations with the United States and Israel, which makes Egypt subservient and changes it into a Trojan horse from which the enemy swoops down on the Arab nation. We have more than one fact to prove this. The military cooperation agreement between the United States and the Egyptian regime is the clearest example of the Egyptian regime's inclusion in the framework of the strategic schemes of the United States and Israel as an active party in executing the policies that serve the aims of these schemes.

It is a paradox that calls to welcome the Egyptian regime to the Arab summit should be made at a time when this regime is strengthening its relations with Israel and subservience to the United States. Such calls clearly conflict with the Arab nation's national interests.

The Algeria summit is faced with one issue, and that is support for the Palestinian Arab people's uprising. Why then, is the subject of the Egyptian regime being raised, although the reasons which led to boycotting the Camp David regime in Egypt have not changed? If the Egyptian regime likes to propagate from time to time news about the death of the Camp David agreement, there is only one way to find out for sure. By this we mean that the Egyptian regime should declare that this has actually happened, that it has become totally free, and that it truly adheres to issues of the Arab struggle. This will definitely not happen, and the Egyptian regime will

not—as it admits—take any step toward freeing itself from Camp David and other shackles which are imposed on it by the military cooperation agreement with the United States.

Commentary Says U.S. 'Not Qualified' To Mediate
JN1905145488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: While promoting the scheme it calls the George Shultz initiative for peace in the region, the United States is ignoring four facts. The first of these facts is that the Middle East issue does not need any new initiatives, particularly when they originate from a party that encourages aggression. The Middle East needs athe implementation of the UN international resolutions. The second fact is that the blind American bias toward Israel does not qualify the United States to play the role of impartial arbiter. On the contrary, this bias encourages the aggressor to commit even more aggressions and crimes, aggravates the conflict and tension, and fans the fire that is burning in the region. The third fact is that the United States claims one thing but does the exact opposite. It says it is prepared or willing to bring about a noticeable change in its Middle East policy which is in harmony with the principles of justice and human rights, but then it does the exact opposite; that is, it clings to the Israelis, who contradict international resolutions and the UN Charter. The fourth fact is that the United States is ignoring the facts of the conflict in its policy in the region, imagining that the policy of monopolization could help it achieve hegemony over the Middle East. It is thus ignoring the lesson learned from the unraveling of the 17 May agreement in Lebanon.

The United States continues to disregard the existence of international resolutions awaiting execution in the Middle East, the most important being the resolution dealing with the Palestinian people's right to repatriation and self-determination. It also continues to disregard the great change that has taken place in the world which equates Zionism with racism and Israel with the racist entity in South Africa. This deliberate U.S. disregard of the roots of the Middle East conflict has made the United States a direct party to the hostilities on the side of Zionist enemy. It has elevated its strategic alliance with the enemy to a level of total unity of aims, interests, and schemes, something which robs it of all credibility when talking about the exercise of a peaceful policy in the Middle East.

Instead of addressing the Arabs and promoting Secretary Shultz' initiative, the United States should first listen attentively to the Arabs and what they demand, and what the region's future should or should not be. When Shultz warns against the continuation of hatred and violence in the region, as he did yesterday, and calls for agreements toward a just peace, he forgets that Israel is the source of hatred and terrorism and that the road to true peace starts first with removing the occupation and its traces.

Since the U.S. Administration turns a blind eye to the origin of Israeli hatred, terrorism, aggression, and expansion, then it is not qualified to be a mediator or impartial arbiter because the first characteristic of an arbiter is to know the fact of history and take them into consideration, not to neglect them or tread on them. The most basic characteristic of an impartial arbiter is to search for the correct methods to reach the facts and justice, and not to judge according to methods devoid of any fairness.

The historical facts do not need any clarification for Washington to see. Neither do the correct methods need any illumination for Washington to see. Justice simply means to return usurped land and rights to their owners and the methods are the international resolutions and the United Nations, the Security Council, the international conference that has great powers. So long as Washington does not heed these facts and methods, the conflict is going to become even more aggravated until right and justice is imposed on the area. The uprising of our people in the occupied territories is a clear indicator that history is taking its normal course and moving toward its desired objectives of liberation and breaking the wave of imperialist, Zionist invasion.

Afghanistan

Dissident Officers Blow Up Herat Munitions Dumps

LD2305105388 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Zahedan, May 23, IRNA—Afghan army officers sympathetic with mujahidin yesterday clandestinely planted time-bombs in several munitions dumps of a garrison in Herat and blasted it. The officers were said to have connections with Muslim militants in Afghanistan. The boom of the explosion was heard at a far distance from the garrison and smoke was seen welling up from into the sky until Monday [23 May] morning.

Several military officers were killed and wounded in the blast which occurred in the artillery unit of Brigade 11 of Military Headquarters 17 of Herat.

Army General's Defection Noted

BK2405130588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1253 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 24 (AFP)—Dissident officers have blown up an Afghan Army ammunition depot in the western city of Herat causing many casualties and heavy damage, resistance sources said here Tuesday.

The blast Sunday showered the city with rockets, missiles and shells causing heavy damage and havoc in the city, the sources added, without giving precise casualty figures.

They said Afghan Army officers who have links with the mujahidin resistance alliance had planted a time bomb in the ammunition dump.

The sources would not identify the officers for "security reasons."

The sources said an initial explosion took place at 3.20 P.M. (0940 GMT) Sunday and was followed by a series of secondary explosions.

They added that missiles and shells rained down on the city, located near the border with Iran, for more than three hours within a radius of 10 kilometres (six miles).

The sources believed casualties could include civilians as well as army personnel inside the depot, which is located seven kilometres (about four miles) from the city centre.

They said the blast followed the defection to the rebels Thursday of Afghan Army Major General Fazil Ahmed Samadi, whom they said was in charge of the army's logistics unit in Herat.

Afghan President Najibullah appointed Maj. Gen. Samadi a senator after national parliamentary elections last month.

Observers said he was the highest ranking army officer to defect to the mujahidin since Soviet troops began withdrawing from Afghanistan May 15 under the terms of a U.N.-sponsored Afghan peace accord—signed by Kabul and Islamabad in Geneva April 14.

An army munitions depot at Qarghah near Kabul exploded in August 1986, killing at least 200 people, diplomats said.

Resistance sources, who put the death toll in the Qarghah blast at 400, said that explosion was caused by a rebel missile.

Kabul attributed the blast to negligence.

Rebels Seize Seyyedabad Along Ghazni-Kabul Road

BK2405151088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1458 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 24 (AFP)—Afghan guerrillas have captured a key city on the main Ghazni-Kabul highway along which Soviet troops should travel when they withdraw from bases in southern Afghanistan, diplomats said here Tuesday.

Mujahidin guerrillas captured Seyyedabad, which is located about halfway along the Ghazni-Kabul highway, on May 17 after three weeks of fierce fighting that left the highway closed, Western diplomats said.

Only two days earlier the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan had begun when a column of tanks and armoured vehicles left the eastern garrison town of Jalalabad.

Soviet troops stationed in Ghazni, located some 120 kilometres (75 miles) southwest of Kabul, are slated to start evacuating the city soon.

But observers said the capture of Seyyedabad, on the vital highway that eventually links Kabul to the country's second largest city Qandahar, deep in the south, would make it difficult for the Kabul regime to reopen the road to Ghazni "in the near future."

The diplomats said the Soviets might have to rethink their withdrawal strategy in light of the rebel capture of Seyyedabad, adding that they might decide to reach Kabul by first going east to Gardeyz, in the border province of Paktia, then traveling north.

They said Soviet troops were also preparing to move out of Gardeyz and the important garrison town of Khowst, also in Paktia Province.

The diplomats said that Soviet columns moving north from Kabul towards the Afghan-Soviet border had encountered "harrassment fire" at three places before crossing the friendship bridge on the Oxus River (Amu Darya) last week.

Afghan analysts said that the eventual departure of the Soviet troops from Ghazni would leave the Kabul regime in a vulnerable position in the area, where the mujahidin has a strong presence.

The government earlier this month announced that it was withdrawing troops from the Paktia towns of Chamkani and Jaji, but diplomats said this was "an attempt to put a good face on a major military setback."

Meanwhile, Moscow has continued to supply the Afghan forces with military aid, the diplomats said, adding that most of the suppliers had been sent to the major garrison towns of Rish Khvor, Qarghah and Pol-e Charkhi, to the east, south and west of Kabul respectively.

Soviets Pull Out Along Jalalabad-Kabul Highway

BK2305162488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1550 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 23 (AFP)—Some 500 Soviet troops have pulled out of security posts along a stretch of the Kabul to Jalalabad highway, resistance sources said Monday.

Soviet troops guarding the key highway to the eastern garrison town of Jalalabad dismantled 10 military posts Sunday along a 50-kilometer (30 mile) stretch from Daruntah to Sarowbi, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS said, quoting the region's rebel commander, Dr. Asif.

Daruntah is only 10 kilometres (six miles) west of Jalalabad while Sarowbi is vital because a nearby dam supplies electricity to the capital, Kabul, observers noted.

Some 90 tanks and military vehicles Sunday left Samar Kheyl, the main Soviet military base in Nangarhar Province, just 12 kilometres (eight miles) east of Jalalabad, resistance sources in the Pakistan border city of Peshawar said.

Some Soviet advisers remained in Jalalabad and Samar Kheyl, they added.

(In Moscow, the TASS news agency said Sunday that all Soviet troops had left Nangarhar Province.)

Kabul announced Sunday that some 1,000 Soviet troops in 200 armoured vehicles had reached the capital from Jalalabad, the third such convoy since Moscow began its pull-out on May 15 in accordance with the Geneva accords signed in April.

Western diplomats corraborated the resistance reports, saying there had been roughly 4,000 Soviet soldiers in the region and the evacuation of Samar Kheyl was a significant move in Moscow's withdrawal.

The garrison not only checked rebel movement in Nangarhar but had also played a role in the war against the mujahidin in Paktia and Baghlan Provinces, they added.

The resistance sources said Soviet troops had heavily mined the area before leaving.

Soviet planes had launched several attacks on rebel strongholds along the road to Kabul, killing 12 people, the sources said.

One Killed in Missile Attack on Kabul 23 May

LD2305171788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] The extremist criminals who are opposed to the peace and tranquility of our compatriots have committed another crime by firing heavy weapons over various parts of Kabul city.

According to a report by BAKHTAR's military section, the criminal extremists fired six surface-to-surface missiles on various parts of Kabul city around 1800 this evening. As a result of this criminal and inhumane action a woman in the region of Deh Khodaydad was martyred and another woman was injured. The injured was immediately transported to the hospital.

Armed Forces Foil Missile Attack on Jalalabad

LD2305183988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] The Armed Forces of the country, in continuing their activities in the areas around Nangarhar Province, yesterday prevented a devilish plan by the extremists elements who wanted to cause an incident by firing surface-to-surface missiles on Jalalabad city.

A BAKHTAR military correspondent reports from Jalalabad city that the country's armed forces, with all-round cooperation of the people in the Chaprahar subdistrict, discovered 29 surface-to-surface missiles which had been placed for launching in the region of [place name indistinct] of that subdistrict by the anti-peace elements.

The units and companies of the armed forces in Nangarhar Province, possessing high moral and combat readiness, are ready at any time to decisively crush the enemies of peace in order to establish peace and tranquility in the areas around that province, and foil any kind of conspiracy.

Hikmatyar Factions Clash in Ghazni Province

LD2305204788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] As a result of internal disagreements between armed extremists from the Gulbuddin Hikmatyar band and the Sazaman-e Nasr organization based in Iran, a

serious clash took place in Ghara Bagh district, Ghazni Province recently. A number of armed extremists of both groups were killed, including [name indistinct], the Sazaman-e Nasr ringleader.

Kabul Allegedly Violating Geneva Accords
BK2405023088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0213 GMT 24 May 88

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, May 24 (AFP)—Thousands of Baluchi "separatists" from Pakistan now living in Afghanistan still receive military and economic aid from Kabul contrary to its commitments under the Geneva accords, Western diplomats said.

Up to 25,000 dissidents are said to be living in camps in southern Qandahar Province or in Kabul, led by their chief, Sardar Nawab Khayr Bakhsh Marri.

Signs posted on their homes call for "free Baluchistan", the diplomats said, adding that the Baluchis are visited periodically by Kabul officials as well as by Iraqi and Cuban diplomats.

Under the Geneva accords signed by Islamabad and Kabul last month, each agrees not to interfere in the other's internal affairs.

Sources in Pakistan said about 10,000 Baluchis fled in the wake of an army operation to crush an insurgency triggered in 1973. Many leaders were jailed.

Most of those who fled returned when current President Mohammed Ziaul Haq declared a general amnesty after coming to power in a military coup in 1977.

But not all returned and some left Pakistan, many after a drought.

Press reports said the number abroad has risen to about 25,000.

Sources in the Baluchistan provincial capital, Quetta, claimed the Baluchis were receiving military training in Afghanistan for subversion in Pakistan or to counter anti-Kabul guerrillas in the south.

But analysts said they rarely figure in accounts of the war.

The Baluchis have been joined by some Pashtun dissidents. Both sides often speak up for the rights of the two nationalities and periodically raise the issue of "Pashtunistan" in the northwestern tribal belt.

Successive Kabul regimes have backed the so-called Pashtunistan issue to harry Islamabad, analysts said, adding that Kabul wants to exploit Baluchistan's unemployment problem, which young people blame on the government's "misguided development priorities".

The Kabul regime has found some support in the ideologically motivated and politically mature Baluchi Students Organision (BSO), which denies having any secessionist tendencies.

One leader said: "We do not want provincial autonomy, but restoration of our national rights—economic, political and cultural."

Currently 17 foreign governments and donor agencies are active in strategically-located Baluchistan. They include the United States, the European Economic Community, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and United Nations groups.

But the most active among them is USAID, which focuses on the Mekran coast bordering the Arabian Sea and Iran, press reports said.

The anti-Soviet lobby here claims that Moscow is also keeping an eye on Baluchistan as an access to the sea. The province's Gwadar harbour has a natural sea depth of 9.7 Metres (32 feet), second only to that of Baltimore harbour, at 10 metres (33 feet).

The Americans, interested mostly in road building, have earmarked 25 million dollars for a communication network.

But despite the influx of money, there is a feeling that not much is filtering down to the common man, observers said.

The diplomats said the reported economic and military support provided by the Kabul regime to the Baluchis will raise questions about its undertakings under the Geneva accords reached with Islamabad April 14 and guaranteed by the Soviet Union and United States.

Under Section 12 of the accord's Article II, the Kabul government agreed to prevent within its territory the presence of "individuals and political, ethnic and any other groups for the purpose of creating subversion, disorder or unrest in the territory of the other high contracting party..."

Press reports here said some Baluchi and Pashtun leaders were planning to shift to India in the aftermath of the Geneva agreement.

Najibullah Interviewed on Policy Goals
DW230931 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 23 May 88 pp 148-150

[Interview with President Najibullah by editor Siegfried Kogelfranz in Kabul; date not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Mr President, we saw you bidding farewell today of the first group of Soviet troops who are going home. Are you confident that you will still be

president of this Republic of Afghanistan in 9 months when the last Soviet units have left your country as envisaged in the Geneva accords?

Najibullah: The policy of national reconciliation that we pursue in Afghanistan is supported by all strata of the people, including the refugees and even members of the armed opposition, and by the international public.

Those who intend to continue the fractricide are clearly oppoosed to what the Afghan people want. The Afghans are war-weary. They want peace. And I am sure that the peace policy will win.

SPIEGEL: But most mujahidin leaders have said that they want to continue their struggle until the government in Kabul is removed and they had taken over. Is your army able to withstand that threat, given the fact that not even the Soviet Union, one of the world's two strongest military powers, has won a victory on this battlefield?

Najibullah: I can state with certainty that the Afghan forces are able to effectively counter all attacks against the Afghan people's peaceful life. A prerequisite is, however, that armed intervention from outside be discontinued.

SPIEGEL: The opposition not only attacks with weapons, but is now also launching a political offensive. The mujahidin leaders have already set up a government-in-exile. What countermeasures do you intend to take?

Najibullah: I do not agree. On the contrary, I belive that the opposition is increasingly isolated at the national and international levels and is drifting toward suicide. We set up a council of elders here in Kabul who worked out the new Constitution. We have proclaimed a broad-based coalition government. We held parliamentary elections in which everyone could participate. The Constitution allows everyone to make full use of their political and social rights.

In our view, all the other so-called governments do not have any legal significance. In addition, the Western countries would not be very happy with a government-in-exile.

SPIEGEL: You mean, because experience has shown that governments-in-exile often remain governments-in-exile?

Najibullah: Yes, history has shown that often enough.

SPIEGEL: Did you also invite the resistance leaders to take part in your planned coalition government?

Najibullah: Of course, we have always made that clear enough.

SPIEGEL: Their reaction has been negative. Can President Najibullah imagine somebody like Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, the most extremist mujahidin leader in exile, being a minister?

Najibullah: As I said, we have invited all the know political figures—whether they live here or abroad—to take part in a broad-based coalition government and thus contribute their share to security and peace in the country.

SPIEGEL: But what does the government expect to achieve with its invitation to former King Zahir Shah to come back from his exile in Rome?

Najibullah: In our sociopolitical system which is a multiparty system, has a mixed economy, and is a coalition of different forces, everyone able to contribute to strengthening national security is welcome, including Zahir Shah.

SPIEGEL: Has a special functin been envisaged for the former king?

Najibullah: If the former king is interested in serving the people he could hold an important political and social position and he could also play an important moral role.

SPIEGEL: Has reaction to the invitation to participate in a coalition government been friendlier among opposition leaders in the country than among the opposition in exile?

Najibullah: We indeed differentiate between the opposition individuals, whether they live here or abroad. There are extremists and moderates. The moderates in the opposition abroad and a substantial part of armed opposition in the country are indeed ready to take part in the reconciliation process.

SPIEGEL: In its effort to bring about such a reconciliation the government has made most concessions to the forces of Islam. Has this met with a broad response in the country?

Najibullah: Whatever we do is in the interests of the Muslim people of Afghanistan. We accept and respect the people's religious beliefs. The recognition of the role of spiritual dignitaries has met with satisfaction among the people.

SPIEGEL: But does this position not create a sense of uncertainty among many of your party members who are not interested in Islam?

Najibullah: Seen that way, the Democratic People's Party of Afghanistan has never been a Marxist-Leninist party, but always a party respecting the people's beliefs.

SPIEGEL: What does President Najibullah feel when he is publicly praying in the mosque?

Najibullah: He feels what every Muslim feels.

SPIEGEL: Some 3 million Afghans live in Pakistan as refugees, and allegedly another 2 million in Iran. What is being done specifically to bring them back, and how many fellow countrymen do you expect to come back in the next few months?

Najibullah: To begin with, I doubt that the figures mentioned by you are correct. They are much fewer in number. Pakistan is bound by the Geneva agreements to take all the necessary measures to allow for the repatriation of the refugees and we have made all the necessary preparations for their return. We hope to be able to receive 1 million returnees before the end of this year.

SPIEGEL: You said several days ago that taking in 1 million repatriates would cost 30 billion afghanis (over DM 1 billion). Who will pay that sum? Do you have any specific offers from abroad that you will be granted aid?

Najibullah: Those funds will be needed as transitional aid until the repatriates have resettled and can perform their routine work. The friendly socialist states have promised us comprehensive aid for that task. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees and other international organizations will also help us. India, which I visited recently, has also promised assistance. However, I think that all countries which have always eagerly advocated human rights are now, in particular, called upon to set an example of humanity.

SPIEGEL: So far the West has primarily helped the refugees in Pakistani camps. Do you think that those funds should be given to Afghanistan once it takes in the refugees?

Najibullah: If we take human rights seriously, the refugees who have had to suffer so much in emigration would indeed be entitled to receive aid from those countries and the respective organizations.

SPIEGEL: Iran did not take part in the Geneva peace negotiations. No agreement exists with your neighbor in the west on the refugees' fate. Are you planning to hold bilateral talks on the problem? You were ambassador to Tehran at one time.

Najibullah: We have tried repeatedly to discuss bilateral relations as well as those problems with Iranian official authorities. Unfortunately we have never received a positive response to our efforts. We regret that, but our proposals continue to be valid.

SPIEGEL: Both superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, have signed the Geneva agreement as guarantor powers. Moscow has now definitely begun to fullfill its obligations. It is withdrawing its troops. What do you expect Washington to do as a guarantor power?

Najibullah: The United States pledged in Geneva that it would not interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs anymore. We expect the United States as a superpower and a member of the UN Security Council to really observe that obligation.

It would be a great pity if the Americans on the one hand signed that obligation in Geneva, and on the other, continued to support the extremists with weapons and other measures, and thus continued to interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

Here the basic question is what is a signature on a treaty worth? How else can it be guaranteed that important international treaties are really adhered to by the signatories?

SPIEGEL: Are there any indications that Washington would not adhere to the Geneva agreement?

Najibullah: We have obtained information that the United States has supplied the counterrevolutionaries with the most modern weapons, including "Milan" antitank missiles, new "Stinger" anti-aircraft missiles, mortars, and long-range missiles.

SPIEGEL: You stressed repeatedly that you are interested in better relations with Western countries. Have there been any responses?

Najibullah: We want to have good relations on the basis of equality and the recognition of mutual interests with all countries. Some progress has been achieved in that respect, but we are particularly interested in improving our relations with the United States.

SPIEGEL: Relations between Afghanistan and Germany were traditionally good for many decades, but now the relationship between Kabul and Bonn seems to be troubled. Do you see an opportunity to improve it?

Najibullah: It would be good if we could resume the tradition of the past decades. Give my best wishes to the FRG people. There is the hope—and we are also interested—that relations between the two countries and peoples will be developed and deepened.

SPIEGEL: There have been rumors time and again that Afghanistan's northern province will be kept as the last bastion of your regime if the situation in the country deteriorates. Is there any truth to this?

Najibullah: These rumors are totally unfounded and have emerged because we sent an authorized representative of the Council of Ministers to the northern provinces—and area from which we get about half our gross national product.

SPIEGEL: When you saw off the Soviet unit today, what did you think? Are you happy about the troop withdrawal? Or do you regret it?

Najibullah: We made considerable efforts together with the Soviet Union to solve the problems in and around Afghanistan. As you see, our flexible and rational policy has rendered this withdrawal possible. If it leads to peace we will be happy.

India

Golden Temple Opened for Prayers, Rituals

BK2305032988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 May 88

[Excerpt] The Golden Temple in Amritsar has been thrown open to devotees for 8 hours from today. The devotees were allowed to visit the temple from 0400 to 0600 this morning. The AIR correspondent, after visiting the temple, reports that many devotees including some from rural areas came to the holy shrine to offer prayers. There were old and young, women, and children among the devotees. The devotees will again be allowed to visit the temple from 1000 to 1400 and from 1700 to 1900.

The deputy commissioner of Amritsar, Mr Sarabjit Singh, told our correspondent that this schedule will continue for some time. He said steps have been taken to lift the curfew in the 300-meter area around the Golden Temple complex. Curfew has already been lifted from Bazaar Khatiyan and Bazaar Papron. The night curfew was lifted from the walled city last night.

Elsewhere in the state, one person was shot dead by terrorists in village More in Sangrur District last night. One terrorist died after consuming poison when he was arrested by the security forces during a raid in village Pagana in Amritsar District. The security forces arrested another terrorist from a village under the Lopoke police station in the same district. [passage omitted]

Curfew Imposed on Temple Area

BK2305161288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] The indefinite curfew which was imposed on the 300-meter periphery of the Golden Temple has been lifted from more than half the affected area. The area includes some important markets. The inspector general of police, Border Range, Mr Chaman Lal, said that this has been done following improvement in the situation. He, however, added that the authorities will keep on reviewing the situation and allow relaxation in curfew whenever required.

Thousands of devotees offered prayers at the holy shrine during the day today after it was opened to the public this morning. The Golden Temple was opened from 0400 to 0600 in the morning, 1000 to 1400 in the afternoon, and 1700 to 1900 this evening.

According to the agency reports over 140 cartridges of AK-47 rifle were recovered from a devotee from under a carpet in the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] this afternoon. The district administration has handed over the cartridges to the security forces.

Sikhs Visit Temple

BK2405035588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 May 88

[Excerpts] In Amritsar, the curfew has been restricted to only about 100-200-meter periphery of the Golden Temple complex. Even in that inner ring, the curfew is relaxed for 8 hours a day from 0400-0600, 1000-1400, and 1700-1900 to facilitate the devotees to visit Darbar Saheb [main shrine]. Our correspondent, after visiting the Golden Temple early this morning, reports that devotees visited the holy shrine in larger numbers than yesterday morning. About 26,000 devotees visited the temple yesterday.

The deputy commissioner of Amritsar, Mr Sarabjit Singh, told our correspondent that the administration is continuously reviewing the situation and relaxation in the curfew is being given in areas wherever possible. He said the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee has not replied to his letter sent on Sunday seeking assurance that the Golden Temple complex will not be used for any other purpose than religious. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, two terrorists have been killed in two separate encounters. In Faridkot District, one terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces in village Madhok, while the other terrorist, Chamkaur Singh, was killed in Bhatinda District.

The Punjab governor, Mr Ray, has said that though the state is passing through a very critical juncture, nobody can prevent us from improving our economic conditions and the standard of living. Mr Ray was inaugurating a 220-KV substation at Moga last evening. Referring to the recent happenings in the Golden Temple complex, the governor said there is no question of victory or defeat for anybody. It is the victory of Sikh faith and spiritualism. The governor reiterated government's determination to ensure that the complex is not allowed to be converted into a sanctuary for terrorists, secessionists, and antisocial elements.

The president of the Akali Dal-Longowal, Mr S.S. Barnala, has said that the most reprehensible act of sacrilege was committed by the terrorists by taking shelter inside the Harmandir Saheb [inner shrine]. In a statement in Chandigarh, he said never in the Sikh history has the sanctum sanctorum been defiled in this manner.

'Terrorist' Violence in Punjab Continues

12 People, 2 Terrorists Die

BK2405092488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Twelve people were killed by terrorists in separate incidents in Punjab since last night. Six members of a family were shot dead and two children injured at Dhaliwal village in Jullundur District, while three people, including an ASI [assistant subinspector of police] and a constable, were killed in Amritsar District. A caretaker of a religious place was gunned down in Gurdaspur. Two dead bodies were recovered in Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana Districts. Two terrorists were killed in encounters in Faridkot and Bhatinda districts.

CPI Leader Killed 23 May

BK2305124788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] In Punjab, three persons including a CPI activist have been killed by terrorists since last night. The CPI leader, Mr Malkiat Chand, was gunned down by scooter-borne terrorists near his native village in Jullundur District this morning. A woman was killed and her two daughters injured in Bhatinda District, while a goldsmith was shot dead in Sangrur District.

Security forces have arrested three terrorists following a brief encounter in Gurdaspur District early today. Some arms and ammunition have also been recovered.

Security Teams To Counter Pirate Radio Stations

BK2305071188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Special security teams will be deployed along the India-Pakistan border to detect the exact locations and frequencies of pirate radio stations being planned to be set up by Punjab terrorists. This was disclosed by the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, in an interview to an AIR correspondent, Vishwanath Parmesh, in New Delhi today. Mr Buta Singh was referring to a London-datelined newspaper report that the extremists in Punjab have acquired equipment from Britain to put up pirate radio stations along the India-Pakistan border with the active support of Pakistan. He said he is hopeful that the security teams will put these stations out of action and meet the threat to our security on the border.

Mr Buta Singh told our correspondent that the use of the radio digital system by the security forces in Punjab will considerably strengthen the communication network along the border. He said this new system is very powerful and can be operated without being overheard or intercepted.

Replying to a question on the migration of people from rural areas in Punjab due to increased terrorist killings, Mr Buta Singh said this problem can be solved only with the active participation of the people, particularly the Sikhs. He said combined efforts by the security forces and the people have yielded the desired results in flushing out terrorists from the Golden Temple recently. He said there is already some frustration in the ranks of terrorists due to the success of the security forces. However, we have to ensure that extremism is completely eliminated in Punjab and migration of people from rural areas stopped, he added.

Further on Sikh Radios

BK2305123088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1205 GMT 23 May 88

[Excerpt] New Delhi, May 23 (AFP)—Special security teams will be deployed on India's border with Pakistan to search for and destroy radio stations planned by Sikh separatists in Punjab, Home Minister Buta Singh said here Monday.

Mr Buta Singh disclosed the government plan on state-run All India Radio (AIR) after THE TIMES OF INDIA published a report from London Monday saying the militants planned to set up three radio stations on the Indo-Pakistan border.

The home minister said he was hopeful that the special teams could put the planned radio stations out of action and "meet the threat to India's security on the border." He gave no further details.

Mr Buta Singh also told AIR that security forces in the Punjab had acquired digital radio systems which considerably strengthened their communication networks along the border as such transmissions could not be intercepted.

THE TIMES said Sikh separatists, battling for a homeland in the northern state, were smuggling broadcasting equipment to Pakistan from Britain.

The militants planned three radio stations, each with an estimated range of 200 kilometres, it said. Indian diplomats had taken up the issue with London but were told the sale of transmitters was not illegal, THE TIMES added. [passage omitted]

Gurkha Leader Warned About Continued Violence

BK2305155888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] The West Bengal government has warned the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] president, Mr Subash Ghisingh, to refrain from violence in the hill areas of Darjeeling. The minister of state for hill affairs, Mr Tawang Dawa Lama, in a statement in Darjeeling said that after Mr Ghisingh's announcement of the do or die program, the GNLF activists armed with guns and bombs attacked CPI-M supporters on Saturday and Sunday. Mr Lama said two persons were killed and twenty injured in the attacks.

Meanwhile, more reports of violence have been received from different parts of the Darjeeling hills. A private vehicle was hijacked from (Mangpu) under Kalimpong subdivision last evening. The vehicle was traced this morning in a completely gutted condition. A few bombs also exploded in different parts of Darjeeling town last night. There is, however, no report of any injury or damage.

8 Killed, 12 Injured in Group Clashes in Bihar

BK2405065488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] In Bihar, at least 8 people were killed and 12 injured in group clashes at village Zalim under Palamau District of Bihar yesterday. Police have rounded up 10 persons in connection with the clashes. Prohibitory orders have been clamped in the area. The situation is stated to be under control.

Defense Minister Comments on Regional Security

BK2405035888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0340 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Pant, has said that with the induction of more and more sophisticated and deadly weapons into Pakistan, the security environment in the subcontinent has deteriorated. Speaking to troops at Lansdowne in Uttar Pradesh, Mr Pant said that this has forced India to divert its scarce resources to defense needs. The defense minister reiterated India does not want war, but, at the same time, cannot slacken in its defense preparedness.

Mr Pant said that the defense secretary, during his recent visit to Islamabad, had told the Pakistani leaders that India does not want anybody's land and would defend its land at all costs. He called upon troops, farmers, and workers to rededicate themselves to make the country strong.

Minister on Expansion of Radio, TV Network

BK2305153288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] AIR and television networks in the country will have large-scale expansion in the next 2 years. This was disclosed by the union minister of information and broadcasting, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, at a press conference in Ahmadabad today. He said the number of AIR stations will go up from the present 94 to 205 and the number of AIR transmitters from 173 to 305 by the end of the current 5-year plan.

Mr Bhagat said the AIR will embark upon a new concept of broadcasting by commissioning a large number of district headquarters stations in the next few years. Referring to the speedy expansion of the television network, the minister said the number of TV transmitters will increase to 421 by the end of the 7th plan. It will cover 83 percent of the country's population.

Rocket Set for 2d Development Test Flight

BK2205072588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] India's augmented satellite launch vehicle, ASLV, is all set to put a Rohini satellite in orbit next month. This second development flight will take place from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. The Rohini satellite will carry a payload developed by the West German space agency under a joint program. It uses a stereoscopic camera system to generate experimental images of the earth.

The 23.5-meter-long ASLV is an improved version of the three-stage launch vehicle India developed and it has two strap-on booster meters to place a 150-kilogram satellite in low earth orbit. Our correspondent says the ASLV-D2, as the current mission is known, has several built-in mechanisms against any possible failure. The first launch carried out in March last year failed due to nonignition of the first stage. The launch will give India the capability to put satellites into space.

BJP Chief Calls for Action Against Pakistan

BK2005040288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] The BJP president, Mr L.K. Advani, has called for strong action against Pakistan if it continues to help the terrorists in Punjab. Speaking in Bombay, he accused the Center of not having a definite policy on the Punjab problem. Mr Advani said the immediate concern is to counter the internal and external forces trying to divide the country.

Iran

Representative in Talks With France Appointed

LD2305164488 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—Foreign Ministry Director General for Western Europe Dr. 'Ali Ahani was appointed Iran's representative for talks on normalization of Tehran-Paris relations.

French President Francois Mitterrand and new Prime Minister Michel Rocard had stressed on resumption of diplomatic relations with Iran last week.

Khomeyni's Office Urges March Cancellation

LD2305113788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report the Secretariat of Imam Khomeyni has issued this statement: Because we were informed that various strata of the Hezbollah ummah of Tehran intended to stage a march under the slogan "Allegiance to the imam" on

Tuesday [the anniversary of the capture of Khorramshahr] the issue was conveyed to the imam of the ummah. His holiness praised the presence of the people at the scene of the revolution.

The Secretariat of the imam of the ummah, while conveying the expressions of pleasure of his holiness the imam, urges the Hezbollah ummah, particularly the citizens of Tehran, not to stage the march.

Commentary on Vernon Walters' Mideast Trip
LD2305143688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1112 GMT 23 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Vernon Walters, U.S. representative to the UN, has stressed that the Western governments' efforts to impose an arms embargo on Iran have been unsuccessful. En route from Baghdad to Kuwait he added: China and the Soviet Union are not prepared to approve a new resolution in connection with the war.

The American UN representative has embarked on an extensive trip to North Africa and the Middle East. In the Middle East he met officials in Syria, Jordan, and occupied Palestine, and held discussions on the forthcoming visit to the region of George Schultz, the U.S. secretary of state, as well as on the peace plan. Informed people believe that in addition to the Palestinian issue and the issue of peace in Middle East, he spoke with Syrian officials in Damascus about the political future of Lebanon and the recent clashes within Muslim ranks; that is, between Amal and Hizballah.

Over the past few months, the U.S. State Department has sent an official to Damascus and Beirut in order, with the assistance of the Syrian and Lebanese Governments, to draw up a political plan for the future of Lebanon, particularly in view of the fact that presidential elections will be held in Lebanon during the current year. Although, in the opinion of political circles, the U.S. efforts have not been successful, the U.S. secretary of state believes that the resolution of the Lebanon problem must have a place in the general Mideast peace plan.

However, Vernon Walters' trip to the Persian Gulf will center on talks with Iraq and Kuwaiti officials concerning the imposed war and increased cooperation between Washington and Baghdad,. Last year, when the United Nations, under pressure from the United States because of its political activities, approved Resolution No 598, U.S. officials, certain of the fact that Iran would once again reject the resolution, began a political and military offensive. However, when Iran accepted Resolution No 598 on condition that all its clauses be given equal priority, Washington and its allies in the Western world, by stressing Iraq's position, turned the Persian Gulf region into the most crisis-ridden waterway in the world.

On the other hand, extensive coordination now exists between Washington and Baghdad on war matters and the Persian Gulf. The recent military cooperation which took place in the Persian Gulf reveals that apart from demonstrating its lack of neutrality in the war, the United States has become actively engaged in the region.

Although some informed sources consider part of the U.S. representative's negotiations in Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, and, tomorrow in Saudi Arabia, to involve the political future of Saddam, it can at least be said that on the eve of the meeting between the leaders of the superpowers in Moscow, Walters' trip has an informational aspect and is whipping up support for Reagan in his negotiations with Gorbachev. It also lays the ground work for George Schultz' forthcoming trip to the Middle East.

Navy Chiefs, Others Address Persian Gulf Seminar
LD2105084088 Tehran IRNA in English 0732 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA—Persian Gulf oil rich Muslim countries have had some 2,300 billion dollars of oil revenues since early 1980s which had no effect on their industrial, agricultural and social developments, Foreign Minister advisor 'Ali Shams Ardakani said here today.

Ardakani speaking on the second day of the Persian Gulf seminar said since the Persian Gulf has the largest oil deposits of the world the regional oil strategy would be a determining factor in international oil market in future with an influence on world energy equations.

The Persian Gulf countries exported daily over 20 million barrels of oil in the peak years of oil production and exports in 1978 to 1981 all of which, he said, went through the Strait of Hormuz.

He said the new strategy of exporting oil by trunklines aiming to make exporters dependent on the Persian Gulf is in fact a means of injecting capital to construction companies and steel industries of the industrialized countries which are badly in need of financial aid.

Besides, this strategy helps countries which can promote their economic plans according to the U.S. and World Bank methods in the light of using transit fees and cheap oil.

Professor Asefi from Shiraz University was another speaker at the session who delivered a report on the U.S. intervention in the Persian Gulf oil rigs, and the presence of Aramco company as a bridgehead for the U.S. in Saudi Arabia.

U.S. diplomacy to spread its influence in the regional countries including the 1953 coup in Iran was a lever to safeguard this superpower's interests in the region.

On the last day of the two-day seminar on the Persian Gulf Thursday, Navy commander, the commander of the naval forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and deputy prime minister and head of the enviroment protection organization delivered speeches.

In his address to the seminar, Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan lauded the Army and IRGC forces for having foiled 90 percent of Iraqi attacks on Iranian targets in the Persian Gulf. He said the enemy attacks were aimed at dealing blows on Iran's economic interests.

Malekzadegan said that the U.S. by attacking Iranian oil rigs in the Persian Gulf and helping Iraqi warplanes attack "Val-Fajr-8" oil terminal on Larak Island actually displayed its enmity with the Islamic Revolution more than ever before.

Commander of the IRGC naval forces Hoseyn Ala'i was another speaker who said that because the U.S. foothold in the Persian Gulf has become shaky since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution it has designed many plots in the region, the most conspicuous of which is the presence of its Rapid Deployment Forces in the region.

Ala'i also cited great Iranian victories over Iraq on the battlefields which have served to accelerate the downfall of the ruling Ba'thist regime in Baghdad.

Also speaking at the seminar was deputy premier and head of the environment protection organization Dr. Hadi Manafi who elaborated on the effects of oil pollution on this international waterway and on the ecology of the Persian Gulf.

Manafi blasted the U.S. for its attacks on Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf which he said had caused serious oil pollution in the region.

Japanese Envoy Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani
OW2205075388 Tokyo KYODO in English 0630 GMT 22 May 88

[Text]Tehran, May 22 KYODO—The Japanese ambassador to Iran has asked Iranian National Assembly Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani that Iran show self-restraint in battlefields in the Iran-Iraq war.

Ambassador Yoshio Fujimoto also urged Hashemi-Rafsanjani Saturday to accept a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in the war.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he explained Iran's position when he met with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar last autumn, calling for recognizing Iraq as the aggressor in the war.

The Japanese envoy asked for Iran's self-restraint in the hope of not discouraging the ongoing peace-seeking efforts of the U.N. secretary general.

Commerce Minister Departs for Pakistan 23 May
LD2305151888 Tehran IRNA in English 1404 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari heading a delegation left here for Islamabad Monday to pay a five-day official visit at the invitation of his Pakistani counterpart.

Prior to his departure, Abedi-Ja'fari told reporters at Tehran Airport that he was conveying President 'Ali Khamene'i's verbal message for his Pakistani counterpart Gen Ziaul Haq.

The commerce minister noted that Iran attaches great importance to its ties with Pakistan which is a Muslim country and a member of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in which Iran, too, is a member.

Abedi-Ja'fari said that the Islamic Republic is prepared to take all necessary steps to consolidate Tehran-Islamabad ties in various fields.

He said that Pakistan is at present exporting textiles and agricultural products to Iran in return for Iranian crude oil and some traditional commodities such as pistachios.

During the visit, Abedi-Ja'fari said he is scheduled to hold talks with the Pakistani president and some ministers and to visit industrial centers in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad.

Khomeyni Representive Gives Damascus Sermon
LD2105120688 Tehran IRNA in English 1056 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Damascus, May 21, IRNA — Imam Khomeyni's representative to Syria and Lebanon Hojjat ol-Eslam Fahri in his Friday prayers sermons in the shrine of Hazrat Zaynab (AS) Friday denounced the joint conspiracy of the U.S. and the Iraqi Ba'thist regime in bombing Iranian oil installations.

The Iraqi Ba'thist regime commits a new mischievous act after receiving a strong blow from Muslim combatants and its recent chemical attack on Iranian and Iraqi border villages following the victories of Iranian forces is an indication of this.

At the end he called on the Persian Gulf states not to permit the superpowers to involve themselves in the Persian Gulf affairs or use the waterway as an strategic bridge to attain their goals in the region.

SAIRI Chairman Condemns Baghdad Conference

LD2305185288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], gave an exclusive interview to a Central News Unit correspondent. Commenting on the so-called peace conference to be held in Baghdad, he said:

The motives for holding such a conference are well known to the world public. It is obvious that the 'Aflaqi regime of Iraq, in spite of starting the war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, enjoying the support and cooperation of its backers particularly the United States, expanding the war daily, using chemical weapons and expanding it [as heard] to engulf the region particularly the Persian Gulf, attacking residential areas, threatening the airways, and committing other crimes, is now trying to pose as a lover of peace in search of security and also to hide its crimes. That is why occasionally this regime holds such conferences in order to dupe public opinion, particularly the opinion of the oppressed people of Iraq. He added: Any person who kills thousands of his own compatriots in a few moments by using chemical bombs cannot be a lover of peace.

The SAIRI chairman referred to the fact that such conferences cannot conceal the party responsible for starting the war and for prolonging it: It is the Iraqi regime. He said: Such conferences are a conspiracy hatched by world arrogance against the Islamic Revolution in Iraq and Iran. This is being coordinated with certain international bodies under the influence of the United States. That is why, on the eve of the so-called Baghdad peace conference, the U.S. envoy has traveled to the region to arrange even further cooperation.

In response to a question about the possible outcome of the conference, he said: This conference will be no different from previous ones; that is, a few mercenaries and duped officials will gather in Baghdad and issue a statement which will be pure political propaganda against the Islamic Revolution of Iran and Islam. One can surely see the hands of the United States and its allies in such a statement. Therefore, this conference is doomed to failure as far as the two Muslim nations of Iran and Iraq are concerned, because the two nations are determined to continue the war until Saddam's regime is toppled.

WIH Terms Iraqi Attacks 'Intolerable'

LD2305171988 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—Iran today warned that the continuation of Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities is, without doubt, an intolerable issue and that the Islamic Republic can no longer see Iranian civilians "weltering in their blood but [as received] Baghdad and other Iraqi cities enjoy security."

A statement issued by the War Information Headquarters further said that the criminal regime ruling Iraq by repeatedly violating international regulations has perpetrated countless inhuman crimes in the course of its 8-year-old war against the Muslim people of Iran.

Attacks on residential areas in Iran, repeated use of internationally-banned chemical arms, raids on oil tankers and cargo ships and attacks on passenger planes are among the crimes committed by the Baghdad rulers during the imposed war, it said.

It said in the last round of its so-called war of the cities which ended in April, the Iraqi regime subjected Iran's residential areas to its savage missile and air attacks as a result of which over 1,700 innocent people were martyred and more than 8,500 others wounded.

The Islamic Republic of Iran never wants to involve civilians in the war because of its commitment to humanitarian principles, the statement said, adding that the Islamic Republic enters into the war of the cities only with the goal of putting an end to the Baghdad regime's crimes.

Of course, the Islamic Republic has never hesitated, and will never hesitate, to respond to the enemy's mischievous acts.

One day after the cessation of Iraq's extensive attacks on Iran's residential areas, the statement stressed, the Baghdad regime resumed its chemical and air raids on civilian areas and villages in Iran.

The statement enumerated Iraqi attacks on residential areas in Iran resumed as of April 22, 1988 as follows:

City	Type of Attack	Martyrs	Wounded	Losses	Date
Abadan	shelling	-	17	7 houses damaged	22/4/88
Abadan	shelling	-	10	5 houses damaged	23/4/88
Abadan	shelling	1	8	9 houses damaged	26/4/88
Marivan	shelling	-	5	4 houses damaged	27/4/88
Shiraz	bombardment	-	20	1 non-military center hit	4/5/88
Baneh	shelling	2	19	12 houses damaged	6/5/88
Marivan	shelling	-	23	8 houses damaged	13/5/88

City	Type of Attack	Martyrs	Wounded	Losses	Date
Sarchin (suburb of Marivan)	bombardment	3	25	15 houses damaged	16/5/88
Molla Sheykh and Bozileh (north of Sar Dasht)	chemical attack	4	350	-	17/5/88
3 Villages in Alan Region in Western Iran	bombardment	7	23	15 houses damaged	17/5/88
Marzanabad, Beytushah Near Sar Dasht	chemical attack	5	100	-	17/5/88
Ney Village (suburb of Marivan)	chemical attack	12	95	-	18/5/88
Paveh	bombardment	50	150	several houses, one school damaged	20/5/88
Vardeh, Zuran, Bani Khalaf (suburbs of Sar Dasht)	shelling	4	25	several houses damaged	22/5/88

The WIH statement said the above-mentioned data and information indicate the fact that the Iraqi regime has not yet given up its acts of mischief and is still continuing its inhuman crimes in bombing residential areas in Iran and in using chemical arms against civilians.

It added Iraqi warplanes have also violated the airspace of many cities in Iran but have been forced to flee when faced with heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

"The continuation of Iraqi attacks on Iran's cities is, without doubt, an intolerable issue and the Islamic Republic can no longer see Iranian civilians weltering in their blood but [as received] Baghdad and other Iraqi cities enjoy security," the statement warned.

The Baghdad regime should know that the patience of the Islamic Republic is not unlimited and that Iran's Muslim combatants have yet to respond to crimes committed by Baghdad over the past month.

This is while the Iraqi regime has martyred 50 people in a single attack on Paveh town, in northwestern Iran, it said.

"We declare that we will not provide the Iraqi regime with an opportunity to continue its crimes," the statement concluded.

WIH Denies Iraq Downed Helicopter

LD2305164788 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—A spokesman for the WIH today categorically denied an Iraqi claim that its forces had shot down an Iranian Bell-214 helicopter in the north fronts this morning.

WIH Denies Shelling Darband-i Khan

LD2405083988 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—The War Information Headquarters (WIH) here Tuesday firmly denied Baghdad's claim that Iran had shelled the Iraqi town of Darband-i Khan in Iraq's Al-Sulaymaniyah Province Monday.

A WIH spokesman said that the Iraqi claim was a pretext aimed at justifying its intended attacks on towns and cities in Iran.

He added that Iraq's attacks on Iranian cities and villages have not stopped and that the latest in the series of such attacks was one on the Kurdish city of Paveh which claimed at least 30 civilians' lives.

The official, hwoever, commented that the Iranians' patience has its own limits.

Commander Denies Aircraft Downed in Iraq

LD2405093588 Tehran IRNA in English 0919 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—An operational commander of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran Tuesday strongly refuted an Iraqi claim that its forces had shot down an Iranian jet over east of Basra region this morning.

He said the Iraqi regime has been spreading blatant lies in recent days in a bid to cover up his defeats in "Beyt ol-Moqaddas-6" operations.

The commander noted that all Iranian aircraft safely returned to bases today after successfully carrying out their missions.

'Zolfaqar' Naval Exercises Continue in South

LD2305132588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 May 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The first phase of the successful "Zolfaqar" naval exercises was conducted by the Iranian Navy in the Gulf of Oman, the Indian Ocean, and in international waters to improve naval defensive preparedness and combat coordination between the Ground Forces, Air Force, and Navy. More than 50 vessels, accompanied by the heroic Army Air Force Marines [as heard]; the 55th Shiraz Airborne Brigade, fast-flying eagles of the fighters of Islam; and transport and fuel planes, demonstrated the Navy's combat

strength and ability to fend off any beastly act by the enemies of the Islamic Republic and Revolution in the Islamic Republic's waters, the Indian Ocean, and in international waters.

Meanwhile, marines and self-sacrificing paratroopers of the 55th Airborne Brigade, in a joint exercise supported by Army Air Force helicopters, successfully carried out parachute landing operations on the Chah Bahar coast and in the Gulf of Oman, using three planes. To disrupt enemy forces, the brave paratroopers of Islam carried out landing operations, codenamed "Sar-e Pol," to capture imaginary enemy positions. In this exercise, the fighters of Islam captured all the predetermined targets.

I would like to point out that the naval exercises will continue for the next few days with the support of Air Force fighter planes and the Army Air Force in Iranian waters and in international waters. In the exercises the forces of Islam will again demonstrate their firm resolve to combat the plots hatched by world arrogance and its lackeys in the region against the risen people and the Islamic revolution of Iran. [passage omitted]

Electronic Warfare Simulated

LD2305183488 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Province, May 23, IRNA—On the second day of "Zolfaqar-3" joint maneuvers, navy vessels powerfully carried out various marine operations in the southern waters today.

In the course of today's naval exercises, electronic war operations were successfully performed by employing the most advanced military facilities, made mainly by the Navy's self-sufficiency industries.

This stage of the mock maneuvers included such exercises as disturbing the hypothetical enemy's radar systems as well as unjamming operations, all conducted by the Islamic Republic's naval fleet.

The electronic war operations were carried out simultaneously with escorting maneuvers which displayed the Navy personnel's velocity in the exercises as well as their complete combat readiness to encounter any enemy attacks in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Approaching warships for refuelling, logistic movements, and warships' military exercises were successfully conducted, in the second day of "Zolfaqar-3" mock maneuvers.

The military exercises in which the Army, the Navy, and Air Force are taking part began early Sunday and are still continuing.

Reporters Invited to 'Beyt ol-Moqaddas-6' Area

LD2205105288 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—The War Information Headquarters today invited foreign reporters residing in Iran to closely witness Iranian victories in 'Beyt ol-Moqaddas-6' operations.

The reporters may refer to the foreign press and media department at the Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministry to make preparations for the visit.

Iranian combatants killed and wounded over 2,000 Iraqi troops and transferred behind the frontlines 407 POWS in the course of their blitz operations launched last Tuesday night. Another 25 square kms of Iraqi soil in the northeastern province of Al-Sulaimaniyah was also liberated by the Muslim forces in the attack.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Iraqi Positions at Basra Bombed

LD2305104888 Tehran IRNA in English 1042 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—Iranian Air Force fighters in five sorties Monday morning heavily bombarded Iraqi troop concentration centers and their armoured vehicles east of Basra, and referred safely to bases.

Heavy casualties and damage were inflicted upon the enemy troops, said a Joint Staff Headquarters in a statement here Monday.

Communique No 3,211

LD2305173388 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—Iranian Air Force jets in five separate sorties heavily bombed Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites east of Basra Monday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the enemy forces, said a military communique here today.

The 3211th Joint Staff communique said that all jets returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out their missions which occurred at 06:05, 06:10, 06:40, 07:45 and 08:15 hours local time (02:35, 02:40, 03:10, 04:15 and 04:45 GMT).

At dawn Monday, Iraqi troops vainly tried to attack Iranian positions in the western war theater of Sumar but they were repelled and the attacking forces were completely routed by Iran's Muslim combatants until 08:00 hours (04:30 GMT). The Iranian forces also chased the badly-beaten Iraqi troops after the attack was crushed, inflicting more casualties on the enemy.

Muslim forces of Iran heavily shelled an Iraqi mechanized unit attempting to launch an attack in Nahr 'Anbar, southern sector, Sunday, inflicting considerable casualties and losses on the enemy.

A number of Iraqi patrol units attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Nahr 'Anbar and Yebis, southern fronts, yesterday sustained several casualties and were forced to flee when hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian artillery fire killed and wounded at least 15 Iraqi soldiers in Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar, western sector, and destroyed th e enemy vehicles in a southern theater Sunday.

Iran's Muslim combatants checked Iraqi logistical operations in Kani-Sheykh, Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar, northwestern and western fronts, Iraqi armoured units sustained heavy losses by Iranian artillery fire yesterday.

On Sunday, Iranian Gendarmerie forces heavily shelled Iraqi positions and patrol units in their zones of influence, killing several Iraqi soldiers and patrolmen and destroying some gun emplacements, a mortar launcher and a watch tower of theirs.

The Islamic Republic Air Force also effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday.

In the Strait of Hormuz Sunday, Iran's naval units, in addition to controlling shipping, closely monitored movement of Iraqi and foreign vessels in the waterway, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Attack in Sumar Repelled

LD2305184588 Tehran IRNA in English 1836 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—An attempted enemy attack in the Sumar region, in the western fronts, was repelled early today thanks to the vigilance and resistance of Iran's Muslim combatants.

The enemy sustained 1,200 troop casualties and was forced to flee the area after five Iraqi infantry and armoured brigades as well as five artillery battalions sustained heavy losses. Meanwhile, 13 Iraqis including two officers were taken prisoner.

The enemy launched the offensive at 04:25 hours (00:55 GMT) today by employing units from Armoured Brigade 46, Infantry Brigade 425 and Commando Brigade 2 from the Second Corps, backed by Air Force and artillery fire.

After being repelled in the first attack, the enemy reorganised and launched a second offensive at 06:10 (02:40 GMT) to capture strategic heights in the region. In an ensuing hand-to-hand fighting, Iran's Ground Forces succeeded in repelling the enemy troops. The operational region is littered with hundreds of Iraqi corpses.

During the operations, Brigades 425 (infantry) and Two (commando) sustained losses as much as 70 to 80 percent, and Brigade 46 (armoured) and Brigade One (commando) each 30 to 50 percent.

Kurds Reportedly Sent South

LD2105083488 Tehran IRNA in English 0823 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Damascus, May 21, IRNA—The Iraqi Ba'thist regime has recently detained and transferred Iraqi Kurdish youths to camps and prisons treating with them as prisoners of war.

A spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) told IRNA here today that the Iraqi Kurdish people of the northern Iraq have been sent to southern regions and settled among regional nomads.

He said that the Baghdad regime in a widescale air and ground attack deployed chemicals against the Kurds in mid April and took back areas earlier liberated by Kurdish peshmergas.

The spokesman said that thousands of the people of the region, a large number of them women and children, were wounded in the chemical attack.

Flag of Freedom on Post-Khomeyni Era Meeting

NC2305114288 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] According to reports from Tehran, an important unofficial meeting has been held. Many of the regime's officials attended, including Friday imams, clergymen, representatives of the Council of Experts, and members of the commission for assessing the regime's interests [komisyon-e tashkis-e maslehat-e rezhim]. The current situation in the Islamic Republic was reviewed during this meeting. After intense debates, the (?majority) of the participants reached the conclusion that Ruhollah Khomeyni's demise will bring about an end to the Islamic regime's ability to continue governing, forcing it into a steep decline.

Four possible scenarios were debated and it was concluded that:

1. If the Communists come to power, all clergymen and officials from the current regime would be killed, religion would be eliminated, and the country would be lost.

2. If the mojahedin take over, all clergymen and officials of the present regime would be killed, the prospects for the country would be bleak and dark, and religion would be (?secondary).

3. If Mehdi Bazargan and his associates take over, all clergymen and their associates of the current regime would be killed; religion would endure, but Bazargan and his group would not be able to retain control over the country, which would be faced with civil strife and chaos.

4. Should a monarchical government be established, clergymen and officials would be spared and granted a general amnesty, religion would endure, and so would the country. Supporters of a monarchical form of government stressed that the establishment of a constitutional monarchy in Iran would be accompanied by steps preventing any acts of vengeance in general. The highest authorities would investigate the crimes of individuals in the years of the clergymen's rule and only those whose hands are stained with the people's blood would be punished.

Flag of Freedom on Arrests, Executions

NC2305110788 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Hajj Rahmani, former director of the Qezel Hesar prison and an Islamic regime security officials, has been arrested as a counterrevolutionary in collusion with minigroups.

Two new wings are being added hastily to the Gowhardasht prison in Karaj to accommodate some of those arrested in Esfahan and Tehran and transferred to this prison. It is being said that the persons arrested participated in recent unrest. Last Friday the regime's officials publicly executed three persons on Chaharbagh Avenue in Esfahan on charges of being counterrevolutionaries.

Briefs

Contraband Smugglers Arrested

Police Information Department official Colonel Ganje'i has announced the arrest of a gang of forgers who produced gold jewelry made from gold alloyed with copper. They did this with such expertise that their products could not be easily differentiated from pure gold. Police officials also made arrests in Tabriz, Tehran, and Khorramabad. The gang smuggled weapons into the country, using them to stage holdups on highways or selling them to counterrevolutionaries. They were also involved in drug dealing. These criminals had earlier been suspected of smuggling counterrevolutionaries and draft dodgers out of the country. This was done by tampering with illegally obtained passports. A large sum of counterfeit U.S. money was seized from the gang. [Summary] [*NC2405091888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 May 88*]

Left-Wing Party Members Surrender

Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan, May 21, IRNA—One hundred members of the Political Bureau and cadre of the outlawed Leftist Komeleh party surrendered themselves to Muslim combatants in this western province and repented of their past deeds and begged for pardon. Informed sources in Mahabad said that the group returned home after they had found out about the true incentives of their party heads and their treacherous goals. [Text] [*LD2205000588 Tehran IRNA in English 1104 GMT 21 May 88 LD*]

Pakistan

Further Reportage on Sunni, Shi'ite Clashes

Over 100 Deaths Reported

BK2405101488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1002 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 24 (AFP)—More than 100 people have been killed in fighting between Shi'ite and Sunni Moslems in northern Pakistan, a Shi'ite official said Tuesday.

Officials put the death toll in the fighting in and around the mountain town of Gilgit, 200 kilometres (120 miles) north of here, at less than 25 since the violence flared May 13 at the end of the Moslem fast of Ramadan.

But Sheikh Mohsin 'Ali Najafi, an official of Pakistan's top Shi'ite religious organisation, the Tehrike-Nifaze Fikah-Jafria, said that the Shi'ite-Sunni clashes had left more than 100 people dead and possibly many more.

A local daily newspaper reported that fierce gunfights between members of the two religious sects continued Monday and added that the death toll had risen. It gave no figures or details.

The government, which has played down the situation, said Monday that there was tension between the two groups and that it had dispatched Syed Qasim Shah, the minister responsible for northern tribal affairs, to Gilgit. Informed sources said troop reinforcements had been sent to the area.

The violence began in Gilgit on May 13 when Shi'ites decided to celebrate the end of Ramadan one day ahead of the Sunnis and put up posters insulting the Sunni community, witnesses said.

Shi'ite sources here charged that India was responsible for putting up the posters in a bid to sow trouble in the area close to the Indo-Pakistan border.

Mr. Najafi charged that Sunni tribesman in Chitral (in northern Pakistan) had attacked and set fire to dwellings in "three or four villages" near Gilgit.

"The Shi'ite inhabitants had already left the villages," he said, adding that "the authorities had not tried to arrest those who set fire to the villages and had even prevented the Shi'ites from defending their village."

"The Shi'ites don't have many arms and there were deaths on both sides," he said.

Mr. Najafi said that Shi'ites had also jostled and pushed Mr. Syed Qasim Shah to the ground in Gilgit Monday.

He added that the Shi'ites would launch a protest movement in the region, adding "we must take measures to defend ourselves." He did not elaborate.

Few Pakistani newspapers have mentioned the sectarian violence, but THE MUSLIM daily said that armed groups had cut the Karakoram road to China.

Both Sunni and Shi'ite groups have been trying to block all roads to Gilgit to prevent reinforcements of each others communities streaming into Gilgit, travellers returned here from the area told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Agreement for Peace Reached

BK2305154488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] An agreement has been reached between two groups of people in Gilgit which has paved the way for restoring peace and harmony in the area. This agreement was reached at a meeting of the representatives of the two groups, presided over by the federal minister for Kashmir affairs and northern areas, Syed Qasim Shah.

Later, the federal minister told newsmen that the local administration has been asked to assess the damages incurred by the people and to ascertain that all possible efforts have been made to compensate for damages.

Curfew Lifted From Orangi Area of Karachi

BK2405041288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] In Karachi, the curfew was lifted from the Orangi town police station area from early this morning. Meanwhile, in the Shah Faisal Colony, Nazimabad, Gulbahar police station areas, and in Jalalabad and Nadria Market, the curfew will be relaxed from 0600 in the morning to 2300 at night. In the Khwaja Ajmer Nagri police station areas the curfew restrictions will also be lifted from 0600 to 1600.

President Meets Sri Lankan Commanding General

BK2405042288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] General S.C. Ranatunga, the general officer commanding, Joint Operations Command, of Sri Lanka called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi yesterday evening and had discussions with him on matters of mutual interest. He also met General Akhtar Abdur Rahman, the Joint Chief of Staff Committee chairman, and exchanged views with him on matters of common interest.

DAWN on Geneva Accords Implementation

BK1905124288 Karachi DAWN in English 15 May 88 p 7

[Editorial: "A New Phase in Afghanistan"]

[Text] With the coming into force of the Geneva accord today and the beginning of the process of Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan, a crucial and bloody phase of foreign intervention in that country should gradually come to an end. In the present circumstances it would, of course, be unrealistic to expect the war in that strife-torn country to cease as the Russians pull out from there, but the new politico-strategic situation at least offers an opportunity, however slender and uncertain at the moment, for peace and normalisation. It is hardly necessary to emphasise that the continuing Soviet military presence in Afghanistan had served as an active focus for discord and conflict in South-West Asia.

Now that the Russians are leaving, thanks to the courage and spirit of resistance shown by the Mujahidin who refused to accept the presence of foreign soldiers on their soil, conditions are more favourable now for the emergence of national reconciliation and a political consensus in Afghanistan. Obviously, peace would have had a better chance if simultaneously agreement had been reached among the parties concerned on an interim government and a symmetrical cut-off of aid to the Kabul regime and the resistance fighters. But even in the absence of agreement on these vital issues, the importance of the key provision of the Geneva accord for a Soviet withdrawal should not be understimated. Not only is it significant in the global geostrategic context, this being the first time in the last three decades that the Russians are actually withdrawing after having moved into a neighbouring territory. The Soviet withdrawal also speaks of a new pragmatism, moderation and hard-headed realism in the Kremlin's foreign policy that augurs well for international peace and security.

It is in this latter perspective that the Geneva accord should be viewed by the parties who have signed it as well as by those who did not participate in the proximity talks but nevertheless stand to gain from its implementation. This is the best that could have happened in the prevailing circumstances. Once the Russians quit, the

different Afghan groups can try to resolve their differences through a process of give-and-take and reconciliation, which was not possible so long as the Najibullah regime enjoyed the protection of Soviet bayonets. The moot question now is whether the Afghans should seek a military or a political solution of questions relating to the future of Afghanistan.

The mujahidin have so far rejected the Geneva accord on the ground that they would have no truck with the Najibullah regime which they consider to be a stooge of Moscow. The guerrillas have announced their own provisional government. Which of the two alternatives is better suited to the interest of their country is for the people of Afghanistan to decide. This would necessarily entail a political process of self-determination which cannot be carried out through military showdown between the opposing parties or factions.

In such a situation the proposal made by Mr Diego Cordovez, the UN special representative, that consultation among different Afghan groups should be held in a neutral place is a positive one. The UN representative should initiate such a process himself and play the role of a mediator. If he can win the confidence of the Afghans, the guerrillas included, he should be in a position to persuade them to reach an understanding on a broad-based interim government. A settlement reached by mutual agreement at the negotiating table can alone lead to a cessation of fighting. This is absolutely essential if conditions are to be created for the voluntary return of the refugees to their homes.

As the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan begins, Islamabad has a vital role to play in the new phase that is about to open up. For more than eight years, Pakistan has borne the brunt of the Soviet Union's interventionist involvement in South-West Asia. The influx of over three million refugees has not only brought economic problems in its wake. The political, strategic and social repercussions of such a big Afghan presence have not been insignificant either. Over and above this, the proximity of a superpower on our northwestern border has been a matter of serious security concern for us.

Pakistan should now find it in its own interest to see that the Geneva accord is implemented in good faith. It should also actively strive to promote the formation of an interim government in Kabul. Meanwhile, all efforts should be made to bring an end to the flow of arms to the Afghans—be they the ruling faction in Kabul or the resistance fighters within Afghanistan or based in Pakistan. The time for a transition from a military conflict to a political settlement has arrived. It would be wholly unwise to put obstacles in the way of implementation of the Geneva accord which provides a reasonably good framework for peace and normalisation in war-ravaged Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Challenges JVP Leader to 'Duel'

BK2305112088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1023 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Colombo, May 23 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene has publicly challenged a Sinhalese militant leader to a duel, hours before the militants killed seven people, newspapers and the military said here Monday.

"You fix the date and choose the weapons," the 82-year-old president challenged Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP—People's Liberation Front) leader Rohana Wijeweera, said to be in his 40's, during a public meeting in southern Sri Lanka Sunday, the reports said.

Hours after Mr Jayewardene issued the challenge, some 20 JVP gunmen killed a ruling party candidate in next month's provincial elections and five of his supporters in central Sri Lanka and another JVP group killed a soldier in the south, a military spokesman said.

Mr Jayewardene offered to meet the JVP leader at Galle Face, a sea-front promenade in Colombo.

"They (the JVP) come either in the night or (remain) in hiding and kill. Why doesn't Wijeweera come and tell me: "Mr Jayewardene, I want to kill you." I will invite him to Galle Face. Let him fix the date. I will come alone. I will come walking," the state-owned DAILY NEWS quoted the president as saying.

"You can choose the weapon, whether it should be a bomb, a knife, a sword, a gun or even a T-56. I don't know how to use it. But yet I will come. Let us fight face-to-face and see who will die and who will live. Why kill innocent people?" The president was quoted as saying.

Hours later, some 20 JVP gunmen burst into the residence of P. Jayasekara of the ruling United National Party (UNP) and opened fire with Chinese-made T-56 automatic weapons, killing him and a bodyguard instantly. A second security man and three campaign workers were wounded and died in hospital.

Mr Jayasekara, 50, was a candidate in next month's provincial council elections, due in three provinces, which the JVP opposes. He was the 13th candidate to die since the elections were announced more than a month ago.

Four JVP gunmen shot and killed an Army soldier on vacation Sunday when he was taking a late-night walk in the island's violence-hit Southern Province, the military spokesman said.

The JVP is opposed to the provincial elections as they are being held in line with a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord.

The group has said the accord, under which India has some 52,000 soldiers in the island, is a sell-out to New Delhi and the majority Tamil community.

The JVP has been blamed for nearly 300 murders since the accord was signed in July to end a Tamil separatist campaign.

Mr Jayewardene, who in the past has challenged the JVP to kill him, said in his speech Sunday that the JVP would never be able to wipe out the UNP, which has been in power since 1977.

The president escaped assassination in August when a JVP militant lobbed grenades at a meeting he was chairing in parliament. A junior minister and an employee died in the attack.

The JVP, whose Marxist credentials are challenged by Sri Lanka's mainstream leftwingers, led a youth insurrection in 1971 which was put down v 'th the loss of some 10,000 lives.

In a separate development, two Tamil rebels took cyanide and died in eastern Batticaloa when Indian troops tried to arrest them, a military spokesman said Monday.

Indian Officer, 6 LTTE Rebels Die 21 May

BK2205140888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Colombo, May 22 (AFP)—An Indian Army officer and six Tamil guerrillas have died in continuing violence in Sri Lanka, official sources said here Sunday.

The officer, whose rank was not disclosed, and three rebels were killed in a gunbattle in the northern Jaffna Peninsula Saturday, the sources said.

The slain militants belonged to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which has rejected a peace accord aimed at ending a Tamil separatist campaign.

Indian troops shot dead two other LTTE fighters in Jaffna and another in neighbouring Mullaitivu District Saturday, a Sri Lankan military spokesman said.

More than 400 Indian soldiers and some 1,450 suspected rebels have died since New Delhi launched an offensive in October to disarm the LTTE.

An estimated 52,000 Indian troops are deployed in Sri Lanka's north and east under the peace accord signed in July.

IPKF Kill 2 LTTE 'Terrorists,' Capture 23

BK2105111788 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1026 GMT 21 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 21 May (LANKA PUWATH)—Two LTTE terrorists were killed, five IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] soldiers, including one officer, wounded and 23 terrorists apprehended by Indian troops in northern and eastern Sri Lanka during the last 24 hours.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that LTTE terrorist Sinnathamby Kirubarajah was shot dead when he tried to escape from IPKF custody at Arrapattai in Batticaloa District.

At Irakandi in Trincomalee one fleeing LTTE terrorist was killed by the IPKF and one 9-mm pistol and thirty five rounds of ammunition were found in his possession.

One of the 23 terrorists captured was a woman belonging to the Agalthior group of the LTTE in Kyenerci. Fourteen terrorists were apprehended at Mahamangam, Batticaloa, while at Kukuwankerni, 6 were captured, one of them an LTTE tax collector.

At Mullaittivu yesterday one IPKF officer and one soldier were wounded when they were caught in an explosion caused by an LTTE improvised device, on the Mullaittivu-Vavuniya Road. Four Indian soldiers were wounded at Weli Oya by an improvised ground mine laid by the LTTE. At Vavuniya, one terrorist was wounded and apprehended in an exchange of fire with Indian troops.

In raids conducted by the IPKF in the Jaffna Peninsula yesterday, the Indian troops seized 83 rounds of ball ammunition, 6 rounds of 9-mm tracer ammunition, and small quantities of jerry can mines, electric detonators and an identity card belonging to a terrorist Vrajadurai Padmarajah. Also at Eluthamadduwal in the Jaffna Peninsula, the IPKF in a search operation seized 121 rounds of assorted small arms ammunition, 12 kilograms of explosives, 120 yards of cordex and 3 hand grenades.

A report from Massumodai in Vavuniya states that EPRLF terrorists have sent telegrams to members of the public demanding tax payments.

During an IPKF search and destroy operation in Weli Oya, Trincomalee, the Indian troops seized 2 hand grenades, some metallic mines and a poster of LTTE leader Prabhakaran and an LTTE flag among other items.